

# COME SAIL AWAY



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## Gaza Conflict: Egypt presents proposal to end war

M. DARAGHMEH  
Associated Press

**CAIRO (AP)** — Egypt presented a proposed cease-fire to Israel and Hamas aimed at ending the monthlong war, Palestinian officials said early Wednesday after negotiators huddled for a second day of Egyptian-mediated talks meant to resolve the crisis and bring relief to the em-

of Gaza in 2007.

One of the Palestinian officials who spoke to AP said that according to the Egyptian proposal the blockade would be gradually eased.

He said it would stipulate that Israel would end air-strikes on militants, and a 500-meter (547-yard) buffer zone next to the Gaza and Israel frontier would

Palestinians, the majority of them civilians, Palestinian and U.N. officials say. In Israel, 67 people have been killed, all but three of them soldiers.

Hamas is demanding an end to an Israel-Egyptian blockade that has ravaged Gaza's economy. Israel says the blockade is needed to keep Hamas, which fired thousands of



An Israeli army reservist officer, back on camera, wearing a T-shirt referring to the Israeli forces' operations during the war in Gaza, talks with others outside a bar in Jerusalem, early Wednesday, Aug. 13, 2014. Egypt presented a proposed cease-fire to Israel and Hamas aimed at ending the monthlong war, Palestinian officials said early Wednesday after negotiators huddled for a second day of Egyptian-mediated talks meant to resolve the crisis and bring relief to the embattled Gaza Strip. (AP Photo/Leffleris Pitarakis)

battled Gaza Strip.

Palestinian officials told The Associated Press early Wednesday morning that Egypt's proposal calls for easing parts of the Israeli blockade of Gaza, bringing some relief to the territory. But it leaves the key areas of disagreement, including the Islamic militant group Hamas' demand for a full lifting of the blockade and Israeli calls for Hamas to disarm, to later negotiations.

If the sides accept the proposal it would have a significant impact on Palestinians in Gaza as it would improve the movement of individuals and merchandise to the West Bank, the officials said. Gaza exports and other businesses have been hit hard by restrictions imposed on the territory by Israel and Egypt after Hamas took control

be reduced over time, he said.

The Israeli and Palestinian negotiating teams retired after 10 hours of discussions and will resume the talks later Wednesday, about 12 hours before the current cease-fire is set to expire at midnight, the officials said. It was not immediately clear if either side would accept the deal.

The Palestinian officials spoke to AP on condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to discuss the negotiations with the media.

The negotiations took place after a three-day truce brokered by Egypt took effect Monday. A similar truce collapsed last Friday after Gaza militants quickly resumed rocket fire with its expiration.

The monthlong Gaza war has killed more than 1,900

rockets into Israel during the war, from smuggling weapons. Israel is seeking guarantees that it disarm. With the truce set to expire, Egypt pressed the sides hard to reach a deal.

"The talks are difficult but serious," Moussa Abu Marzouk, head of the Hamas delegation, wrote on his Facebook page. "The delegation needs to achieve the hopes of the people." Hamas, shunned by the international community as a terrorist organization, seized control of Gaza from internationally backed Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in 2007.

Any deal will almost certainly include an increased role by Abbas. The Palestinian leader recently formed a unity government backed by Hamas, ostensibly putting him in charge of Gaza. □

## LATIN & CARIBBEAN BRIEFS

### Venezuelan border rules draw ire

**CARACS, Venezuela (AP)** — Venezuelan's decision to close its border with Colombia at night to fight contraband is drawing complaints from both sides of the frontier. On Monday, Venezuela began shutting down the 1,500-mile border from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. to crack down on the smuggling of heavily-subsidized gasoline and food. Venezuela has the world's cheapest gas. The 30-day trial closure has sparked a lot of grumbling from locals, thousands of whom cross the border for work. In the Venezuelan border town of Urena, Chamber of Commerce president Isidoro Teres says dozens of 24-hour factories that make glass, plastic and other products may no longer be able to operate at night. The chief security official for Colombia's Norte de Santander state says state officials also oppose the closure. □

### Haiti captures escaped kidnapper

**PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)** — Officials in Haiti say police have re-captured an alleged kidnapper believed to be responsible for a mass breakout over the weekend at a prison on the outskirts of the capital. Police and government officials say Clifford Brandt was captured at a town on Haiti's border with the Dominican Republic. A spokesman for the prime minister says Brandt was arrested with two other prisoners Tuesday. Spokesman Ed Lozama says the men tried to escape but were quickly captured and are being taken to Port-au-Prince. Brandt is the son of a prominent Haitian businessman. He had been awaiting trial at the prison in Croix-des-Bouquets on kidnapping charges since 2012. Gunmen stormed the prison Sunday and nearly 330 prisoners escaped. Most remain at large. □

### Noriega sent to hospital for exam

**PANAMA CITY, Panama (AP)** — Panama authorities say imprisoned former dictator Manuel Noriega has been taken to a Panama City hospital for tests. A prisons official did not offer The Associated Press details on what tests the 80-year-old former military strongman was undergoing Tuesday. Noriega has been hospitalized several times — for hypertension, flu and bronchitis — since being repatriated from France in December 2011. Toppled in a 1989 U.S. invasion, Noriega served a 17-year drug trafficking sentence in the United States. France later convicted him of money laundering. In Panama, Noriega is serving a 60-year sentence for murder, embezzlement and corruption. His family says he should be released. Doctors hired by relatives say he has a benign brain tumor and heart trouble. □

### Mexico police beat reporter killed

**VERACRUZ, Mexico (AP)** — A Mexican newspaper says a gunman killed its police beat reporter outside his home in southern Oaxaca state. The newspaper Buen Tono published a story Tuesday on its website saying reporter Octavio Rojas was shot to death in the town of Cosolapa, where he lived. Relatives told the newspaper Rojas was shot by a man who entered his home asking to see a car the 35-year-old reporter was selling. The newspaper is based in the city of Cordoba in Veracruz state. It says Rojas covered police stories and the area along the Veracruz-Oaxaca state line. Rojas was also the spokesman for Cosolapa's city council. The press freedom group Article 19 says the newspaper has been threatened several times since 2011, including having its offices set on fire by gunmen. □

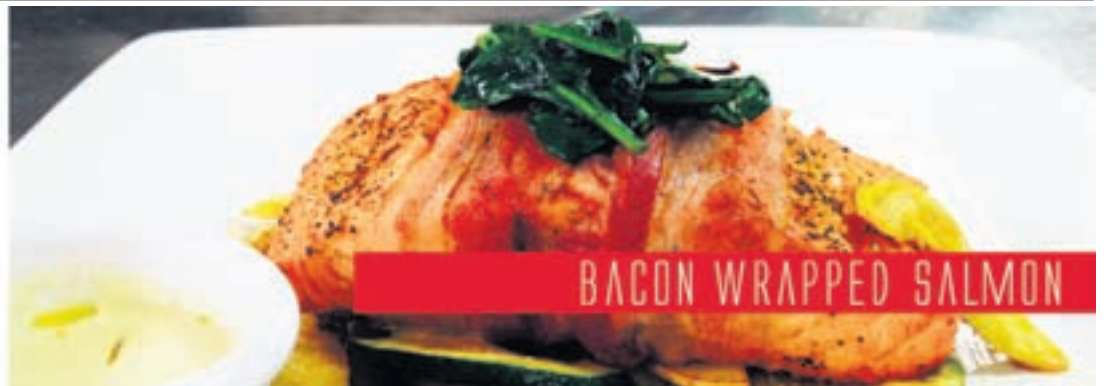


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# US urges speedy formation of new Iraq government

MATTHEW LEE

AP Diplomatic Writer

SYDNEY/WASHINGTON(AP)

— U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry urged Iraq's new leaders on Tuesday to work quickly to form an inclusive government and said the U.S. is prepared to offer significant additional aid in the fight against Islamic State militants.

Kerry said the U.S. "stands ready to fully support a new and inclusive Iraqi government" and called on Prime Minister-designate Haider al-Abadi "to form a new cabinet as swiftly as possible." As that happens, he said Washington would be ready "to fully support a new and inclusive Iraqi government, particularly in its fight against ISIL," the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant. "Without any question, we are prepared to consider additional political, economic and security options as Iraq starts to build a new government," Kerry said. He added that the assistance would be "very much calculated to try to help stabilize the security situation, expand economic development and strengthen democratic institutions."

In California, U.S. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel

announced that another 130 U.S. troops arrived in northern Iraq on Tuesday on a temporary mission to assess the scope of the humanitarian crisis facing thousands of displaced Iraqi civilians trapped on Sinjar Mountain.

Hagel told Marines at Camp Pendleton that the latest deployment was not a combat operation.

A defense official, speaking on condition of anonymity to provide additional details on the sensitive mission, said the extra troops were Marines and special operations forces sent to assess the situation at Sinjar and to develop additional humanitarian assistance options beyond current U.S. efforts there.

There already are 250 U.S. military advisers in Iraq working with Iraqi security forces. Also on Tuesday, the U.S. military said a U.S. drone had attacked and destroyed a militant mortar position north of the town of Sinjar.

Kerry's comments came a day after Iraqi President Fouad Massoum selected al-Abadi, the deputy speaker of parliament from current Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's Shiite Dawa party, to be the new prime minis-

ter and gave him 30 days to present a new government to lawmakers for approval. But al-Maliki has balked at stepping aside and accused Massoum of violating

the confidence of the Iraqi people in democracy. Kerry said a new government should move quickly to resolve numerous initiatives that have stalled under al-

ter Julie Bishop and Defense Minister David Johnston, at the conclusion of annual Australia-U.S. strategic talks known as AUSMIN.

Kerry would not outline the



U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, second from right, along with U.S. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel, right, addresses the start of the Australia-US Ministerial Consultations (AUSMIN) talks at Admiralty House in Sydney, Tuesday, Aug. 12, 2014. Kerry and Hagel are meeting with their Australian counterparts at the annual AUSMIN, which will focus on regional security and enhanced military co-operation. (AP Photo/Dan Himbrechts, Pool)

Iraq's constitution.

The Obama administration believes new leadership is needed in Iraq, not only to face the immediate crisis of the rise of the Islamist militants but also to restore

Maliki's premiership, including a long-delayed oil law and constitutional reforms. Kerry spoke in Sydney at a news conference with Hagel and their Australian counterparts, Foreign Minis-

ter Julie Bishop and Defense Minister David Johnston, at the conclusion of annual Australia-U.S. strategic talks known as AUSMIN. Kerry would not outline the potential new U.S. assistance to Iraq, but as President Barack Obama has done numerous times in the past, he ruled out the return of American combat troops to the country. □

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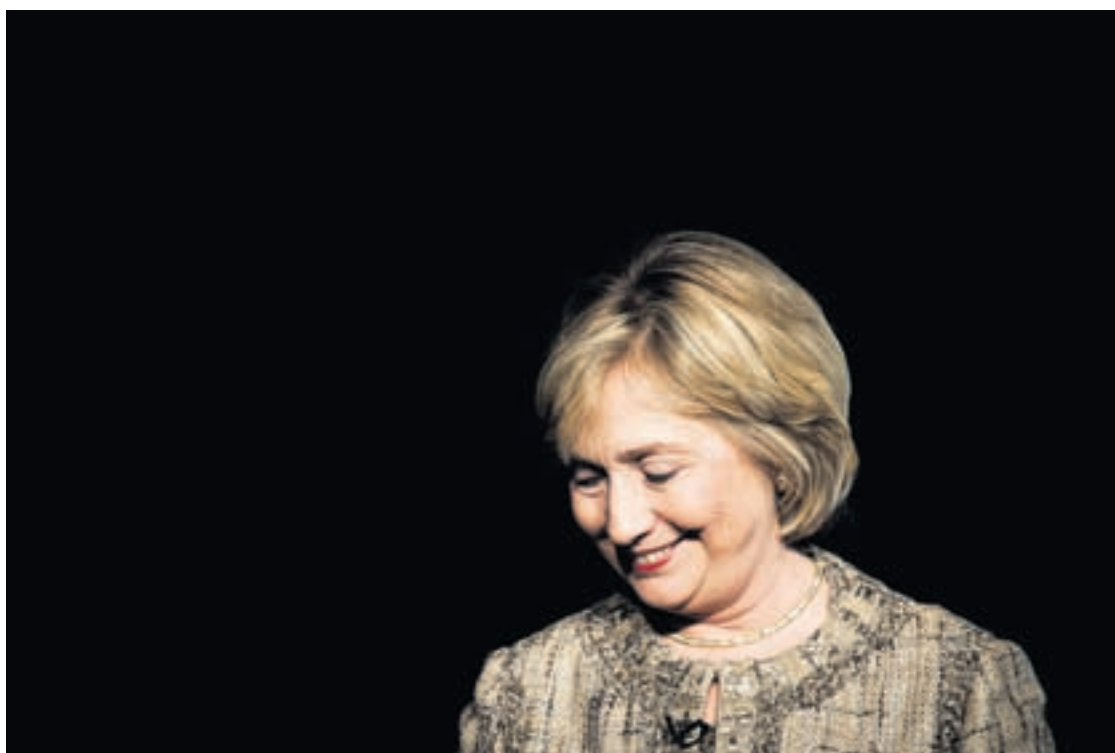


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## Clinton making amends with Obama after critique

**NEDRA PICKLER**  
**Associated Press**

**EDGARTOWN, Massachusetts (AP)** — After distancing herself from some of President Barack Obama's foreign policy, former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton called her ex-boss Tuesday to try to smooth things over and planned on "hugging it out" in person at an upcoming get-together. Clinton spokesman Nick Merrill said Clinton told Obama by phone that nothing she said in a magazine interview was an attempt to attack him or his leadership. The call came on the eve of a party on Martha's Vineyard that Clinton and Obama planned to attend. Clinton's assessments of Obama's foreign policy



**Hillary Rodham Clinton speaks at the New America Foundation conference in Washington. After distancing herself from some of President Barack Obama's foreign policy, former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton called her ex-boss Tuesday to try to smooth things over and planned on "hugging it out" in person at an upcoming get-together.**

(Gabiella Demczuk/The New York Times)

to The Atlantic came at a sensitive time for both her and Obama. She is preparing for a possible second try for the presidency, and he is wrestling with how far to involve the United States in explosive disputes in Ukraine, Syria, Gaza, Iraq and elsewhere.

Clinton, who carried out Obama's diplomacy in his first term, described a different approach she would take in places like Syria and the Mideast. And she rebuked Obama's cautious approach to global crises. "Great nations need organizing principles, and 'don't do stupid stuff' is not an organizing principle," she said in a weekend magazine interview, referring to a version of the phrase Obama and his advisers have used privately to describe his approach to foreign policy.

Merrill said Clinton continued to share Obama's "deep commitment to smart and principled foreign policy," has touted his achievements and was honored to be part of his team, despite some differences.

"Some are now choosing to hype those differences, but they do not eclipse their broad agreement on most issues," Merrill said in a written statement. "Like any two friends who have to deal with the public eye, she looks forward to hugging it out when they see each other tomorrow night." □

## 300,000 must prove eligibility or lose health care

**ABBY GOODNOUGH**  
**© 2014 New York Times**

**WASHINGTON** — More than 300,000 people who bought subsidized health insurance under the Affordable Care Act could lose it next month if they do not provide proof that they are living in the United States legally, the Obama administration said Tuesday. The administration has been trying to resolve questions about the eligibility of hundreds of thousands of people who signed up for private health plans through the new insurance

exchanges and qualified for federal subsidies to help with the cost. Most of the discrepancies involve citizenship, immigration status or income. About 450,000 cases with discrepancies related to citizenship or immigration status have been resolved and an additional 210,000 are "in progress," according to Marilyn B. Tavenner, the administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, which runs the federal exchange. But about 310,000 people have not responded to calls, letters and emails

asking about inconsistencies between citizenship or immigration data on their application forms and government records. On Tuesday, the administration sent another round of letters asking these people to submit more documentation by Sept. 5. If they fail to do so, the letters said, they will lose their coverage by Sept. 30. The federal exchange will also try to reach them again by phone and email; it is also asking consumer assistance groups to help deliver the message. "We want as many con-

sumers as possible to remain enrolled in marketplace coverage," Tavenner said in a statement, "so we are giving these individuals a last chance to submit their documents before their coverage through the marketplace will end." Almost half of the unresolved cases involving immigration or citizenship status are in Florida and Texas, which have large Hispanic populations. The health care law allows only "lawfully present" immigrants to buy insurance through the new exchanges. □



# Police won't name officer who shot US teen



Michael Brown Jr.'s parents, Michael Brown Sr., left, and Lesley McSpadden, right, stand next to the Rev. Al Sharpton on Tuesday, Aug. 12, 2014, in St. Louis. Sharpton pressed police Tuesday to release the name of the officer who fatally shot Brown Jr., an unarmed teenager in suburban St. Louis, but he also pleaded for calm after two nights of violent protests. (AP Photo/J.B. Forbes)

ALAN SCHER ZAGIER

DAVID A. LIEB

Associated Press

FERGUSON, Missouri (AP)

— The police chief in a Missouri city where a police officer fatally shot an unarmed black teenager said Tuesday he's holding off on publicly identifying the officer because of death threats.

Civil rights leader Al Sharpton, standing with the parents of 18-year-old Michael Brown, criticized the decision, saying the secrecy is fueling mistrust of the police in Ferguson, a predominantly black city of about 21,000 residents where violent protests broke out following the shooting.

Investigators have released few details, saying only that a scuffle unfolded after the officer asked Brown and another teen to get out of the street. At some point, the officer's weapon fired inside a patrol car, police said. Witnesses have said that Brown had his hands raised when the officer approached with his weapon and repeatedly fired.

President Barack Obama, who is vacationing on the Massachusetts island of Martha's Vineyard, said that while the case has prompted "strong passions," people should remember Brown through "reflection and under-

standing." He called on people to comfort each other "in a way that heals, not in a way that wounds." Police said death threats prompted them to withhold the name of the officer, who was placed on administrative leave after the shooting.

"The local authorities have put themselves in a position — hiding names and not being transparent — where people will not trust anything but an objective investigation," Sharpton, standing with Brown's mother and father, said during a news conference outside a St. Louis courthouse.

But he also echoed pleas by Brown's parents and the NAACP civil rights group for peaceful protests in Ferguson, where the case has stoked racial tension, protests and looting.

"I need all of us to come together and do this right," said Michael Brown Sr., with Sharpton standing at his side. "No violence."

Some civil rights leaders have drawn comparisons between Brown's death and that of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin, who was fatally shot by a Florida neighborhood watch volunteer who was later acquitted of murder charges. The case has provoked a broad discussion on social media sites about the

death of young black men in racially tinged shootings. On Twitter, a campaign using the hashtag #IfTheyGunnedMeDown prompted many black users to post photos of themselves and ask how they might be portrayed in news reports if they became shooting victims.

Ferguson Police Chief Tom Jackson said he had planned to release the officer's name Tuesday but changed course after death threats were called into the police department and City Hall, and posted on social media. He said it could be weeks before he releases the name.

The race of the officer involved in the shooting also hasn't been disclosed, but witnesses said he was white. Brown was black. □

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# Texas abortion law could send women across borders

**JUAN LLORCA**  
**PAUL J. WEBER**  
**Associated Press**

**EL PASO, Texas (AP)** — Crossing borders is a part of life in El Paso in far West

Texas, where people may walk into Mexico to visit family or commute to New Mexico for work. But getting an abortion doesn't require leaving town.

That could change if a federal judge upholds new Texas rules that would ban abortions at 18 clinics starting Sept. 1, including the only one that offers the

procedure in El Paso.

One of the toughest anti-abortion laws in the U.S. has come under particular scrutiny at a trial ending Wednesday. Abortion has been a much-debated issue in the U.S. in the decades since the country's top court affirmed a right to the procedure, and several states have tried to chip away at access under a variety of laws and proposed laws.

The law would leave just seven abortion facilities in Texas, all of which would be in major cities and none in the western half of the nation's second-largest state.

Without any abortion providers in El Paso, women there would face a 550-mile (885-kilometer) trip to the nearest place in Texas to legally terminate a pregnancy. Attorneys for the state point out that women could simply go to a clinic 15 minutes away in New Mexico.

Opponents of the new

rules say New Mexico doesn't require the same new standards that Texas Gov. Rick Perry approved in 2013 in the name of protecting women's health. It also doesn't require the pre-abortion sonograms that Texas began mandating in 2012.

"It's hypocritical to say they want to protect women, to say that they want women to have a safe abortion and then take away the clinics and make the women go to another state," said Geri Laster, who ran what had been a second abortion clinic in El Paso before it closed in June because of other new mandates.

U.S. District Judge Lee Yeakel is not expected to immediately issue a ruling after closing arguments Wednesday.

The seven facilities that will remain in Texas already have operating rooms, sterile ventilation systems and other hospital-style standards that abortion providers are required to meet under the new law. Outraged abortion clinic owners say they can't afford to make those upgrades, which they criticize as unnecessary.

Texas is proposing that New Mexico is an option for El Paso women, even after a federal judge in Mississippi ruled last month that a state can't shift obligations on constitutional rights — in this case, abortion access — to its neighbors. Texas says its situation isn't comparable to Mississippi because, unlike there, the law wouldn't remove all abortion services in the state.

"At most, some patients may choose to travel out of state for convenience," the state wrote in court documents. □



**The Women's Reproductive clinic is seen in Santa Teresa, New Mexico, Monday, Aug. 11, 2014. If the new abortion law, one of the toughest in the nation, is upheld by a federal judge, the only remaining abortion clinic in El Paso, across the state border from Santa Teresa, will be forced to close due to new requirements and women will have to travel hundreds of miles or go to New Mexico to obtain an abortion.**  
(AP Photo/Juan Carlos Llorca)

## Syncora files objection to Detroit's bankruptcy plan

**MARY WILLIAMS WALSH**  
**© 2014 New York Times**

One of Detroit's chief remaining adversaries in bankruptcy said Tuesday that the city's exit strategy had been tainted by the biases of its chief mediator, whose job it was to impartially negotiate out-of-court settlements for as many of the city's outstanding debts as possible. Syncora Guarantee, a bond insurer that could face millions of dollars in losses, said in a court filing Tuesday that instead of setting his sympathies aside, the chief mediator, Gerald Rosen, had said several times that he thought he should get the best outcome possible for the city's

retirees at the expense of other creditors.

The chief mediator is also the chief judge of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, where Detroit's bankruptcy case is being handled by another judge, Steven W. Rhodes. A spokesman for the court said Rosen was on the bench and unavailable to comment Tuesday afternoon.

As one example, Syncora cited remarks that Rosen made at a news conference earlier this year, describing efforts to keep the treasures of the Detroit Institute of Arts from being sold to pay the city's creditors. "None of this would be possible without all of us

keeping a clear vision firmly in mind about who this is really about," Rosen said. "It's about Detroit's retirees, who have given decades and decades of their lives, devoted to Detroit." With Detroit scheduled to seek approval of its plan for emerging from bankruptcy later this month, Syncora's objection offered a preview of some of the issues likely to be thrashed out in court. Rhodes must ultimately decide whether the plan meets certain fundamental criteria — whether it is in the best interests of the creditors, for instance, whether it is feasible and whether it treats equally situated creditors roughly the same.

Syncora said Detroit's plan failed the tests because it singled out a favored group of creditors — the city's retired workers — and funneled "every dime" of available resources to them "at the exclusion of all other creditors of equal rank."

"The court must reject the plan to preserve the integrity of judicial and mediation processes," Syncora said in its objection.

In addition to Rosen, it said another member of the team of mediators working on the bankruptcy was conflicted: Eugene Driker, whose wife was a longtime trustee of the Detroit Institute of Arts and now serves in an emeritus role. □





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## US Financial Front:

# America's budget deficit running 24.2% below 2013

MARTIN CRUTSINGER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

The federal government ran a lower deficit this July than a year ago, keeping it on course to record the lowest deficit in six years.

since an imbalance of \$458.6 billion in 2008, which was a record at the time. The Great Recession and efforts to deal with the financial crisis sent deficits above \$1 trillion for four straight years. The July

will fall to \$469 billion in 2015 before starting to rise again, topping \$1 trillion annually starting in 2023. Spending on the government's major benefit programs, including Social Security and Medicare, will drive

trillion, compared to a year ago, reflecting government efforts to restrain outlays in an effort to get control of the budget deficits.

Republicans have accused President Barack Obama of failing to propose significant cuts to reduce soaring entitlement costs. Democrats counter that Republicans would rather impose sharp cuts on needed government programs than impose higher taxes on the wealthy.

Neither side is expected to make major concessions in this congressional election year. But the budget wars of the past

three years have subsided at least for a brief time. An agreement was reached in December on the broad outlines for spending over the next two years. The agreement will allow Washington to avoid the gridlock that culminated in October's 16-day partial shutdown of the government.

The budget cease-fire also includes legislation that suspended the government's borrowing limit through March 15 of next year. That puts off another battle over raising the debt ceiling until a new Congress takes office in January. □



A jogger on an early morning run passes the U.S Treasury Building in Washington. The Treasury Department released budget data for July 2014 on Tuesday, Aug. 12, 2014.

(AP Photo/J. David Ake)

The July deficit was \$94.6 billion, an improvement of 3.1 percent from a year ago, the Treasury Department reported Tuesday in its monthly budget statement.

For the first 10 months of this budget year, the deficit totals \$460.5 billion, down 24.2 percent from the same period a year ago.

The Congressional Budget Office expects this year's deficit to total around \$500 billion, down from \$680.2 billion last year. That would be the lowest deficit

imbalance followed a \$70.5 billion surplus in June, a month when government coffers are swelled by quarterly tax payments. But without the quarterly payments, the government ran a deficit in July, a month when it has recorded deficits in 58 of the last 60 years. The yearly deficit peaked at \$1.4 trillion in 2009 and remained above \$1 trillion for each of the next three years, finally falling to \$680.2 billion last year.

CBO projects the deficit

those increases as more baby boomers retire.

For the first 10 months of the current budget year, which began in October, government revenue totals \$2.47 trillion, up 8 percent from the same period a year ago, reflecting a stronger economy which has boosted employment and led to rising income tax revenues and higher corporate tax payments.

With two months left in the current budget year, government spending is up 1.2 percent to \$2.93

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## Flooding slows production at Detroit automakers

**DEE-ANN DURBIN**  
**AP Auto Writer**

**DETROIT (AP)** — Record-setting rainfall in the Detroit area has slowed vehicle production and closed

troit suburb of Warren on Tuesday because of flood damage. The company told the 19,000 engineers, designers and others who work at the 330-acre cam-

appear to cause severe damage to the historic campus, which was designed in the early 1950s by architect Eero Saarinen. GM said production at lo-

Four Chrysler plants — including one in Detroit and three in the suburbs of Warren and Sterling Heights — were flooded Monday.

The company halted operations at its Sterling Heights Assembly Plant at 9 p.m. Monday night and released employees again Tuesday morning. Chrysler said road closings caused by flooding have slowed deliveries and caused high absenteeism.

Three other Chrysler plants were running Tuesday morning, but at a slow rate. Chrysler expects to resume normal production at all four plants later Tuesday.

Ford also slowed production Monday at four suburban Detroit plants in Dearborn, Wayne and Sterling Heights. Assembly plants in Chicago and Louisville, Kentucky, were also impacted because of flooding at Michigan-based suppliers.

Ford said all of its plants were running normally Tuesday morning. □



**A car carrier is stranded along a flooded stretch of I-696 at the Warren, Mich. city limits Tuesday morning, Aug. 12, 2014. Warren Mayor James Fouts said roughly 1,000 vehicles had been abandoned in floodwaters in the suburb where many roads were closed after 5.2 inches of rain fell Monday.**  
(AP Photo/Detroit News, David Coates)

some facilities, automakers said Tuesday.

General Motors closed its Tech Center in the De-

pus to stay home while facilities are cleaned.

GM spokesman Bill Grotz said the flooding didn't

cal plants wasn't affected. But flooding did cause slowdowns at Detroit's other two automakers.

## Job openings in June hit 13 year high: US

**JOSH BOAK**

**AP Economics Writer**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — U.S. employers in June advertised the most monthly job openings in more than 13 years.

Employers posted 4.67 million jobs in June, up 2.1 percent from May's total of 4.58 million, the Labor Department reported Tuesday. The number of advertised openings was the highest since February 2001, a positive sign that points to a strengthening economy.

The report "provides further confirmation that the US labor market has indeed shifted to a period of stronger growth," said Jeremy Schwartz, an analyst at the bank Credit Suisse.

Known as the Job Openings and Labor Turnover survey or JOLTS, the report provides a detailed look at where employment might be heading. It records job postings, overall hiring and the number of workers who either quit or were laid-off. By contrast, the monthly employment report shows the net total of job gains or losses.

Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen relies on the JOLTS report as a barometer for economic conditions. The June figures indicate that employers are looking to expand, yet actual hiring has not increased as significantly in recent months.

Roughly the same percentage of Americans quit their jobs in June as they did in May, though the rate has increased over the past year. Quit rates usually rise when employees are finding new and better-paying jobs.

Hiring rose in June to 4.83 million, up from 4.74 million in May. Still, the hiring rate has not risen over the past year as quickly as the number of positions being advertised.

Job openings have increased 17.6 percent during the past 12 months, while hiring has risen 9.3 percent during the same period. □

## Atlantic City's Revel Casino to close in September

**WAYNE PARRY**  
**Associated Press**

**ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey (AP)** — Atlantic City's Revel Casino Hotel will shut down next month after failing to find a buyer in bankruptcy court, company officials announced Tuesday, making it the fourth casino to plan to shut down this year as the New Jersey coastal city's gambling market continues to crumble.

The company said it will close its doors on Sept. 10. The move comes two years after the \$2.4 billion casino opened. It has never turned a profit.

Atlantic City started this year with 12 casinos. The Showboat will close on Aug. 31, and Trump Plaza is closing Sept. 16. The Atlantic Club closed in January. The Revel's closure will mean the loss of more than 3,100 jobs.

The casino was due to be sold at a bankruptcy court auction last week, but that was postponed until Thursday to allow casino officials to study bids

that were received. But after Revel's board met on Monday, the decision was made to shutter the iconic glass-covered casino at the north end of the Boardwalk.

Revel opened in April 2012 as the first new ca-

life. Atlantic City has since slipped to third place behind Nevada and Pennsylvania, whose casinos touched off the New Jersey resort town's revenue and employment plunge in 2007.

Since 2006, when the



**People walk past the Revel Casino Hotel in Atlantic City, N.J. The Revel Casino Hotel will close its doors on Sept. 10, 2014 after failing to find a buyer in bankruptcy court, company officials announced Tuesday, Aug. 12, 2014.**

(AP Photo/Mel Evans)

sino in Atlantic City since the Borgata opened nine years earlier, and carried great hopes for many that it would be the catalyst to jolt what had been America's second-largest gambling market back to

first Pennsylvania casino opened, Atlantic City's casino revenue has fallen from \$5.2 billion to \$2.86 billion last year.

Revel has ranked near the bottom of Atlantic City's casinos in terms of the

amount of money won from gamblers since the day it opened.

Its original owners envisioned it as a luxury resort that just happened to have a casino, and eschewed many staples of casino culture, including a buffet and bus trips for day-trippers. But that strategy — as well as the only overall smoking ban in Atlantic City — turned off customers, and Revel filed for bankruptcy in 2013, a little over a year after opening.

That led to new ownership and a "Gamblers Wanted" promotional campaign to emphasize the company's new emphasis on its casino.

But despite some improvement, Revel's finances never recovered enough, and it filed for bankruptcy a second time in June, warning that it would close if a suitable buyer could not be found.

Revel's most recent bankruptcy filing listed assets of \$486.9 million and liabilities of \$476.1 million. □





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# Ukraine: Russian aid can enter with Red Cross

PETER LEONARD  
V. ISACHENKOV  
Associated Press

**MOSCOW (AP)** — With a theatrical flourish, Russia on Tuesday dispatched hundreds of trucks covered in white tarps and sprinkled with holy water on a mission to deliver aid to a desperate rebel-held zone in eastern Ukraine.

The televised sight of the miles-long convoy sparked a show of indignation from the government in Kiev, which insisted any aid must be delivered by the international Red Cross. Ukraine and the West have openly expressed its concern that Moscow intends to use the cover of a humanitarian operation to embark on a military incursion in support of pro-Russian separatists. Amid those anxieties, Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday was set to travel to Crimea, the Black Sea peninsula Russia annexed in March, where he was to preside over a meeting involving the entire Russian Cabinet and most members of the lower house of parliament.

Putin so far has resisted calls from both pro-Russian rebels in eastern Ukraine and nationalists at home to send Russian troops to back the mutiny, a move that would be certain to trigger devastating Western sanctions. But dispatching the convoy sent a powerful visual symbol helping the Kremlin counter criticism from the nationalists who accuse Putin of betrayal. The convoy provoked controversy as soon as it started moving early Tuesday from the outskirts of Moscow on its long voyage toward the Ukrainian border.

Officials with both the International Committee of the Red Cross and Ukraine's

government said they had no information about what the trucks were carrying or where they were headed. A Ukrainian security spokesman said the convoy of white-canvased vehicles

facilitate the arrival of the aid and arrange for its delivery to Luhansk as long as certain conditions were met. Such conditions included that the aid passes appropriate customs clear-

departed.

Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said Russia has bowed to Ukrainian demands that the convoy should enter its territory through a checkpoint designated by Kiev,

put on board the trucks alongside Red Cross staff.

However, he said that the idea to unload the trucks on the border and put the cargo on chartered vehicles had come under discussion, but had been rejected for cost reasons.

Valeriy Chaly, the deputy head of Ukraine's presidential administration, said a suitable transfer point could be between Russia's Belgorod region and Kharkiv, which has been spared the major unrest seen farther south. Chaly said that any attempt to take humanitarian goods into Ukraine without proper authorization would be viewed as an attack.

Ukraine has stressed that the effort to alleviate hardship in the conflict-racked Luhansk region should be seen as an international undertaking. Officials in Kiev have said Russia's involvement in the humanitarian mission is required to ensure cooperation from separatist rebel forces, who have consistently expressed their allegiance to Moscow. □



**A convoy of white trucks carrying humanitarian aid passes along the main road M4 (Don highway) Voronezh region, Russia, Tuesday, Aug. 12, 2014. Russia on Tuesday dispatched some hundreds of trucks, although only a small proportion were counted in this convoy, covered in white tarps and sprinkled with holy water on a mission to deliver aid to a rebel-held zone in eastern Ukraine.**

(AP Photo/Pavel Golovkin)

was being managed by the Russian army and could not as a result be allowed into the country. Moscow has rejected the claim, saying that the convoy is organized by the Emergencies Ministry, a non-military agency dealing with humanitarian relief tasks.

The government in Kiev said the Russian trucks could unload their contents at the border and transfer the aid to vehicles leased by the ICRC.

U.S. State Department deputy spokeswoman Marie Harf said talks are under way for Russia to deliver the aid to the Ukrainian border where it would be transferred to the custody of the ICRC.

She said the U.S. has received confirmation from Ukraine that it is ready to

ances, that the ICRC takes custody and responsibility for the delivery in Ukraine, that the Russian-backed separatists allow safe access for the delivery and that the shipments are received at a border crossing point controlled by the Ukrainian government in the Kharkiv region. At least 100 kilometers (60 miles) of the long border between the two neighbors is currently in rebel hands.

The U.S. supports the Ukrainian proposal, Harf said.

Russian authorities said the trucks were loaded with nearly 2,000 metric tons of cargo from baby food to portable generators. Television images showed a Russian Orthodox priest sprinkling holy water on the trucks, some of which bore a red cross, before they

that Ukrainian number plates be put on trucks there and that Ukrainian representatives should be

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# Syrian Kurdish fighters rescue stranded Yazidis

**DIAA HADID  
BASSEM MROUE**  
Associated Press

**MALIKIYA, Syria (AP)** — In a dusty camp here, Iraqi refugees have new heroes: Syrian Kurdish fighters who battled militants to carve out an escape route for tens of thousands trapped on a mountaintop. While the U.S. and Iraqi militaries struggle to aid the starving members of Iraq's Yazidi minority with supply drops from the air, the Syrian Kurds took it on themselves to rescue them. The move underlined how they — like Iraqi Kurds — are using the region's conflicts to establish their own rule. For the past few days, fighters have been rescuing Yazidis from the mountain, transporting them into Syrian territory to give them first aid, food and water, and returning some to Iraq

via a pontoon bridge. The Yazidis, a Kurdish-speaking minority who follow an ancient Mesopotamian faith, started to flee to the Sinjar mountain

chain on Aug. 2, when militants from the extremist Islamic State group took over their nearby villages. The militants see them as heretics worthy of death.

"The (Kurdish fighters) opened a path for us. If they had not, we would still be stranded on the mountain," said Ismail Rashu, 22, in the Newroz camp in the

Syrian Kurdish town of Malki-ya some 20 miles (30 kilometers) from the Iraqi border. Families had filled the battered, dusty tents here and new arrivals sat in the shade of rocks, sleeping on blue plastic sheets. Camp officials estimated that at least 2,000 families sought shelter there on Sunday evening.

Nearby, an exhausted woman rocked a baby to sleep. Another sobbed that she abandoned her elderly uncle in their village of Zouraba; he was too weak to walk, too heavy to carry.

Many said they hadn't eaten for days on the mountain; their lips were cracked from dehydration and heat, their feet swollen and blackened from walking. Some elderly, disabled and young children were left behind. Others were still walking to where Syrian Kurds were rescuing them, they said.

"We are thankful, from our heads to the sky, to the last day on earth," said Naji Hassan, a Yazidi at the Tigris river border crossing, where thousands of rescued Yazidis were heading back into Iraq on Sunday.

The U.N. estimated around 50,000 Yazidis fled to the mountain. But by Sunday, Kurdish officials said at least 45,000 had crossed through the safe passage, leaving thousands more behind and suggesting the number of stranded was higher.

Syrian Kurds have carved out effective self-rule in the northeastern corner of Syria where they make up the majority. □



Displaced Iraqis from the Yazidi community arrive at Nowruz camp, in Derike, Syria, Tuesday, Aug. 12, 2014. (AP Photo/ Khalid Mohammed)

## WHO endorses use of experimental drugs against Ebola

**NICK CUMMING-BRUCE  
ALAN COWELL**

© 2014 New York Times

**GENEVA** - The World Health Organization on Tuesday endorsed the use of untested drugs to combat the Ebola virus, just hours after a Spanish priest who had been supplied with experimental medication became the first European to die of a disease that has claimed more than a thousand lives in West Africa and ranks as the worst known outbreak.

Citing medical confidentiality rules, hospital officials in Madrid declined to say whether the priest, Miguel Pajares, 75, had been treated with an experimental drug, ZMapp,

made in the United States, which the Spanish Health Ministry said Monday it had obtained for him. In Geneva, the WHO convened an ethics panel Monday to debate the broader use of untested drugs and said in a statement on its website Tuesday: "In the particular circumstances of this outbreak, and provided certain conditions are met, the panel reached consensus that it is ethical to offer unproven interventions with as yet unknown efficacy and adverse effects, as potential treatment or prevention."

The panel said the use of untested drugs should be guided by ethical criteria,

including transparency about all aspects of the care provided, informed consent of the patient, freedom of choice and patient confidentiality. No proven cure or vaccine exists for the Ebola virus, which the WHO reported has now killed 1,013 people in four West African countries - Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Nigeria. Around half the people infected in the outbreak, which was first reported in March, have died.

Last week the WHO declared the outbreak a global health emergency. So far, experimental medication has been made available to only a handful of patients, all of them

foreign aid workers evacuated from West Africa, prompting ethical concerns about disparities in the availability of treatment between white outsiders and the Africans who form the overwhelming majority of the victims. ZMapp, the drug sent to Madrid for Pajares, was reported last week to have helped two U.S. aid workers, Dr. Kent Brantly and Nancy Writebol, who were initially treated in Liberia and were evacuated to Emory University Hospital in Atlanta. The Spanish priest, Pajares, was flown back to Spain with a nun who worked with him, Juliana Bohi, who has tested negative for the Ebola virus. □



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## Egypt's leader in Russia for talks on arms, trade

VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV  
Associated Press

**MOSCOW (AP)** — Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi focused on boosting trade and military cooperation on his first presidential visit to Russia, where he was greeted with a display of weapons right upon arrival. Russia has signaled its desire to expand ties with Egypt, an important U.S. ally in the Middle East. When el-Sissi visited Moscow in February, Russian President Vladimir Putin wished him success in the presidential election — though el-Sissi hadn't yet announced his candidacy. Egypt was Moscow's closest Arab ally in the 1950s and '60s, when nationalist leader Gamal Abdel-Nasser turned from U.S. support to win Soviet backing for his drive to modernize the country and the military. The Egyptians partnered with the Soviets to build the High Dam, a mega-project to control floods and provide electricity and water for irrigation. Nasser's successor, Anwar Sadat, broke with Moscow

and evicted Soviet military advisers.

Under el-Sissi, Egypt has shown a renewed interest in Russian arms. An array of weapons, including new armored vehicles and missile systems, was displayed at the airport in Sochi, the site of the 2014 Winter Games, and el-Sissi listened attentively to his guides as he toured the exhibition.

Following talks with el-Sissi, Putin said they agreed to expand military cooperation. Putin said Russia started supplying weapons to Egypt after signing a memorandum in March, but gave no details.

The Russian president said Moscow would welcome more imports of Egyptian oranges, potatoes and other agricultural products, while Russia plans to sharply expand grain exports to Egypt this year.

Russia last week banned most food imports from the West, retaliating for Western sanctions over the Ukrainian crisis.

El-Sissi, who was elected



Russian President Vladimir Putin, right, and Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, front left, visit the Rosa Khutor mountain village near the Russian Black Sea resort of Sochi, Russia, Tuesday, Aug. 12, 2014. El-Sissi is his the first official visit to Russia as President. (AP Photo/Alexei Druzhinin)

president in May, ousted Egypt's democratically elected Islamist president a year ago and then led a violent crackdown.

New-York based Human Rights Watch on Tuesday called for an international

inquiry into the mass killings during the crackdown and urged Egypt's allies to suspend military aid and cooperation until the government adopts measures to end human rights violations. Egypt's government rejected the

report.

The United States partially suspended military aid to Egypt following last year's coup. Within weeks, Russia's foreign minister and defense minister each paid a visit to Cairo. □

## Italy's troubles weigh on eurozone economy

BY DAVID McHUGH  
AP Business Writer

**FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)** — Italy is standing out as the European economy's problem child. Again. Other countries that used to be the bearers of bad news — Spain, Greece, Ireland, Portugal — are slowly healing from the debt crisis that ravaged the currency union for much of the past five years.

Italy, by contrast, slid back into recession in the second quarter. And efforts by Prime Minister Matteo Renzi to shake up the country's bureaucracy-choked economy have slowed, just six months after he promised to strike swiftly.



Head of the European Central Bank, ECB, Mario Draghi attends a news conference in Frankfurt, Germany.

(AP Photo/dpa, Boris Roessler)

The troubles in the euro's third-largest economy are weighing on the already weak economic recovery in the 18-country eurozone and complicating life for the European Central Bank.

Figures Thursday are expected to show the eurozone barely grew the second quarter. The expectation in the markets is that it grew by a quarterly rate of 0.1 percent — around 0.4 percent on an annualized

basis.

Italy isn't solely responsible. Germany and France, Europe's top two economies, are expected to post flat performances, partly because of the impact of the crisis in Ukraine.

But Italy has been consistently posting poor numbers for years. In the second quarter, Italian output fell 0.2 percent, the 11th drop in the last 12 quarters. Growth has averaged less than a half percent a year for the past decade, compared to 1 1/4 percent across the Group of Seven leading industrialized countries, which also includes the U.S., Japan, Canada, Britain, France

and Germany.

Meanwhile things are modestly looking up for those countries that nearly went bankrupt. The rebound is most notable in Spain, which grew 0.6 percent in the second quarter. Greece is also expected to emerge from its six-year recession sometime this year and unemployment is falling in Portugal.

Italy's performance drew a scolding from ECB head Mario Draghi, a former civil servant at the Italian Treasury and Bank of Italy head. Draghi said private businesses were not investing because they did not see the government tackling the country's problems. □



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## Asbestos pushed to poor in Asia

KATY DAIGLE

AP Environment Writer

**VAISHALI, India (AP)** — The executives mingled over tea and sugar cookies, and the chatter was upbeat. Their industry, they said at a conference in the Indian capital, saves lives and brings roofs, walls and pipes to some of the world's poorest people. Their product? Asbestos. Outlawed in much of the developed world, it is still going strong in the developing one. In India alone, the world's biggest asbestos importer, it's a \$2 billion industry providing 300,000 jobs.

The International Labor Organization, World Health Organization, medical researchers and more than 50 countries say the mineral should be banned; asbestos fibers lodge in the lungs and cause disease. The ILO estimates 100,000 people die from workplace exposure every year.

But the industry executives at the asbestos conference, held in a luxury New Delhi hotel, said the risks are overblown.

Instead, they described their business as a form of social welfare for hundreds of thousands of impoverished Indians still living in flimsy, mud-and-thatch huts.

"We're here not only to run our businesses, but to also serve the nation," said Abhaya Shankar, a director of India's Asbestos Cement Products Manufacturers Association.

Yet there are some poor Indians trying to keep asbestos out of their communities.

In the farming village of Vaishali, in the eastern state of Bihar, residents became outraged by the construction of an asbestos factory in their back-

yard.

They had learned about the dangers of asbestos from a school boy's science textbooks, and worried asbestos fibers would blow into their tiny thatch homes. Their children, they said, could contract lung diseases most Indian doctors would never test for, let alone treat.

They petitioned for the factory to be halted. But in December 2012, its permit was renewed, inciting thousands to rally on

sothelioma and asbestosis, or the scarring of the lungs. Dozens of countries including Japan, Argentina and all European Union nations have banned it entirely. Others like the U.S. have severely curtailed its use.

The asbestos lobby says the mineral has been unfairly maligned by Western nations that used it irresponsibly. It also says one of the six forms of asbestos is safe: chrysotile, or white asbestos, which accounts for more than 95 percent



**A worker covers his face with a handkerchief as he sees people photographing him and his coworker handling asbestos sheets at the Ramco Industries Ltd. factory in Bhojpur district of Bihar state, India. Scientists and medical experts overwhelmingly agree that inhaling any form of asbestos can lead to deadly diseases, but the Indian asbestos lobby say the risks are overblown. (AP Photo/Saurabh Das)**

a main road for 11 hours. Amid the chaos, a few dozen villagers demolished the partially built factory.

"It was a moment of desperation," a teacher said on condition of anonymity for fear of retribution from the company. "There was no other way for us to express our outrage." The company later filed lawsuits, still pending, accusing several villagers of vandalism and theft.

Durable and heat-resistant, asbestos was long a favorite insulation material in the West.

Medical experts say inhaling any form of asbestos can lead to deadly diseases 20-40 years later including lung cancer, me-

of all asbestos used since 1900.

Medical experts reject this. "All types of asbestos fiber are causally implicated in the development of various diseases and premature death," the Societies of Epidemiology said in a 2012 position statement.

Russia now provides most asbestos on the world market. Meanwhile, rich nations are suffering health and economic consequences from past use.

American businesses have paid out at least \$1.3 billion in the largest collection of personal injury lawsuits in U.S. legal history. Billions have been spent stripping asbestos from buildings in the West. □

## Pakistan rallies to challenge government, its democracy

REBECCA SANTANA

ASIF SHAHZAD

Associated Press

**ISLAMABAD (AP)** — Ahead of planned massive anti-government protests, Pakistan's capital feels like a city preparing for a siege.

Shipping containers block roads leading into central Islamabad, placed by security forces hoping to halt protesters supporting either a fiery anti-government cleric or a cricket star-turned-politician. Police in riot gear can be seen taking up positions across the city as authorities suspended mobile phone service in some areas. Meanwhile, those worried the government may cut off fuel shipments to slow demonstrators have lined up at gas stations.

The protests Thursday represent the strongest challenge yet to the government of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, just a year after he took office in the first democratic transfer of power in a country long plagued by military coups. And how the country reacts to calls for Sharif's ouster will show how far its nascent democracy has come.

"I think there is going to be a test of wills in Islamabad," said Rasul Bakhsh Rais, who heads the Institute for Strategic Studies.

Two men are at the forefront of challenges to Sharif. The first is Tahir-ul-Qadri, a Pakistani cleric who's also a Canadian national. He commands a loyal following of thousands through his network of mosques and religious schools in Pakistan. Last year, Qadri held a protest in the capital calling for vaguely worded election reforms ahead of the country's May poll, grinding life in Islamabad to a halt. His followers already clashed with police this weekend.

The other is Pakistan's former cricket legend Imran Khan. His Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party is the third-largest political bloc in parliament. Khan's attempts to win followers in Punjab province, the power base for Sharif and his Pakistan Muslim League-N, have rattled the ruling party.

Both men want the government to step down and new elections be held. Khan alleges last year's vote is invalid due to widespread rigging by government supporters. "We have been left with no option but to get on the streets," Khan said Monday.

Both men picked Pakistan's Independence Day for their rallies, the day marking when the country became its own nation carved out of India in 1947. In the opaque world of Pakistani politics, where security services remain powerful, there has been wide speculation that the two men have other internal support, something they've denied.

Their representatives met Tuesday to discuss their strategy. Shah Mahmood Qureshi, a former foreign minister backing Khan, said after the meeting that protesters would not resort to violence, but would resist any effort to impose martial law.

"We are working on a national agenda to bring real democracy in the country," Qureshi said. □





## Aruba International Regatta Set For This Weekend!



**ORANJESTAD** - This weekend, August 16 and 17, the Aruba International Regatta will provide a unique experience with sailing competitions for yachts, beach cats, sunfishes, optimists, micro boats, windsurfers and kite surfers. The main regatta location is at Surfside, between the airport and the SEAruba Dive School.

Participants in the yachts, sunfish and catamaran class will compete for the Budget Marine Cup. The coveted prize at a value of Afl 1,000 will be awarded to the winner in the most competitive class. For the youngest sailors there will be optimist races on both days and there will be races for kite surfers in Oranjestad Harbor, which will certainly render a spectacular view at lunch and at the end of the afternoon.

On Saturday and Sunday at 4:30 pm the Aruba Outrigger Paddle School and the Aruba Surf and Paddle School will offer try-outs and organize competitions for those interested. On Saturday afternoon a

number of boat-building enthusiasts will show off their skills on the beach which will end in a sailing demonstration of the boats built. The all new Aruba Regatta micro-boat competition at Wilhelmina Park will provide regular competitions as well as long distance races in which the miniature-boat captains try to navigate as precisely as possible over a long distance. And of course there will be snacks and drinks on the beach.

The feedback for the 2013 edition was nothing short of amazing. The kids and parents of the optimist class were cheering on with the sailing action right before them in a safe environment.

The sunfish class participants were very happy with the location and the courses. Theo Poiesz and Richard van der Wal, vet-



erans from the Aruba Sunfish Club personally came to thank and congratulate the organization. Robbie Ferron from Budget Marine mentioned that the organization was of very high caliber and he could not remember the last time he had so much fun in a regatta. The beach cats were in general happy with the courses, especially the long distance course and

the location. And among the yachts, one particular crewmember from the Dash from Curacao said: "the best regatta in the ABC's!" They were happy with the level of the event, the short but challenging courses and the fact that everything from the marina where they made berth, the apartment where they stayed and the location of the regatta was all within

walking distance. With the invaluable support of sponsors like Budget Marine, Tranquilo Charters, ALBO construction, SEAruba, Kooyman, RoTech, Studio Advisory, Power Systems, ASD, ADC-TRA, ISS Security, Zenitel, Del Rey Apartments and South Caribbean Sailing, this year's regatta will be a remarkable event again. The participants are preparing for the races and a number of international competitors have confirmed their participation in the

races. You can pre-register for the races via a contact form on the website or call 297-565-6887. Registration for all participants is on Friday, August 15 on Surfside Beach between 4 and 7pm, after that, the regatta will be officially opened. Visit [www.aruba-regatta.com](http://www.aruba-regatta.com) or facebook for the full schedule of events and more information. □



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**At the Sandbar;**

## Pencil in Some Friday Fun at This Week's FRANK Event!

**PALM BEACH** – You are cordially invited to this week's FRANK event, being held at the Sandbar in Aruba. Sandbar, which is now officially operating under Brickell Bay Beach Club & Spa Boutique Hotel, has initiated the Friday Afternoon Drink, the so called FRANK at SAND. This happy hour from 5pm until 7pm is to provide local professionals and tourists a classy, upscale and Caribbean Chic venue with very reasonably priced drinks, open air seating with shading, music provided by a DJ and free snacks. A couple of guests attending the most recent FRANK were interviewed:

Melissa Kromopawiro, Financial Controller at Ro-



mar Trading: This is the first time I came here without it being for a private party, I find the ambience very relaxing and I appreciate that they have free snacks. DJ Vibes is playing really good music. Before this I wouldn't really go out for happy hours, certainly not in a closed up place, so this I really like. You can sit

outside feeling the tropical breeze of Aruba, in an elegant setting. The prices are really good, the snacks are delicious and as I can see they are being kept warm appropriately according to the FDA guidelines. Faela Lopez, Sales representative Romar Trading: "Now that the Sandbar falls directly under the



Brickell Bay Hotel with new Sandbar Manager Lev Valera, I find that are a lot of changes for the better, such as changes in the staffing, the service has become much better and the overall atmosphere of Sand bar has become more elegant. The prices are very reasonable, the snacks are delicious and the DJ is fantastic. I never liked closed up places, so I'm really happy that I'm able to sit outside in fresh air having a good time with my colleagues. This is now the place to be for me."

Angela Tiemens, Radio DJ Fresh Fm: "It's great, especially the prices are really good, the atmosphere is fun and the snacks are fantastic. The music is good, the location is beautiful. Before this I would go to a local bar inside, but this location is very nice and I really like that you can sit outside in the fresh air. But most of all I like the snacks!" Indroh Kelboom, radio announcer/producer The Morning Show Cool Fm. "I really liked the meatballs! It's great that if you look around, you see people at the bar that are just like us, young professionals that are looking for a nice place to relax, and that is what is going on here at

FRANK.

Alexander Leonard, Sales Aruba Trading: "Atmosphere is great, the prices are good but most of all I love the snacks. Next time I will tell more colleagues to come with me so that they know there is a nice place for them to go to after work. Even though I work in Oranjestad, it's not a problem to go to Palm Beach."

Adele John, Food & Beverage manager at Brickell Bay: "Brickell Bay wanted to organize a happy hour on Friday for the local people to unwind and relax in a nice Caribbean chic atmosphere with affordable prices and free snacks such as chicken wings, meatballs, mini sandwiches and mozzarella sticks. I am very amazed myself, it's so much fun, look at the guests you can see they are having a good time."

The FRANK at Sand is an every Friday happy hour with \$2 beer draft and \$3 mix drinks from 6-8PM at the Sandbar at Brickell Bay Beach Club & Spa Boutique Hotel. For more information check out the Facebook page FRANK AT SAND THIS FRIDAY!, like the Facebook Page Sand Aruba or call Lev Valera, manager Sandbar, for group reservations at 592-8348. □

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## De Palm Tours Awarded 2014 TripAdvisor Certificate Of Excellence

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ORANJESTAD - Once again, this year De Palm Tours is the proud recipient of the TripAdvisor® Certificate of Excellence award. All credit goes to the three hundred staff members that work hard to provide the many different services and tours offered by the company. The accolade, which honors hospitality excellence, is given only to establishments that consistently achieve outstanding traveler reviews on TripAdvisor, and is extended to qualifying businesses worldwide. When selecting Certificate of Excellence winners, TripAdvisor uses a proprietary algorithm to determine the honorees that takes into account reviews ratings.



Businesses must maintain an overall TripAdvisor bubble rating of at least four out of five, volume and recency of reviews. Additional criteria include a business' tenure and popularity ranking on the site. "Our mission of safety, teamwork and hard work with an element of fun is reflected in the way we deliver the experiences to our customers", said Warren Stanley General Manager of De Palm Tours. "All

credit to our staff because that's what has driven over four thousand TripAdvisor ratings with an average four and half star rating for the company." "TripAdvisor is pleased to honor exceptional hospitality businesses for consistent excellence," said Marc Charron, President of TripAdvisor for Business. "The Certificate of Excellence award gives top performing establishments around the world the recognition they deserve,



based on feedback from those who matter most – their customers. From Australia to Zimbabwe, we want to applaud exceptional hospitality businesses for offering TripAdvisor travelers a great customer experience." About De Palm Tours: De Palm Tours is your one-stop portal to fun and adventure! Their wide selection of tours and activities has been thoughtfully developed with you in mind - for quiet time, mellow cruising, amazing discovery, wet 'n wild action,

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# In Love with Each Other and With Tango Restaurant!

**PALM BEACH** - At Tango Restaurant love is in the air. That was once again proven when the Salazar family from South Miami, Florida, came to dinner. The couple is engaged and will be married soon. So love is around! But when they came to Tango Restaurant in the Arawak Garden, they fell in love once again, they said. During their week's stay they

dined at Tango three times to try various menu options; their favorites were the calamari, the onion soup and the filet mignon. They are not the only ones! A bit more about the Salazars: they met via a mutual friend and this was their first trip to Aruba. They love the weather, the friendliness of the people and the gorgeous beaches, so they will be back soon, we



hope. They are more than welcome at Tango Argentine Grill, of course. Tango

is located across from the Occidental Resort; it is a lively plaza filled with res-

taurants, kiosks and there is live music every evening of the week. □

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Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, from France, walks back on the court during a first round match with Mikhail Youzhny, from Russia, at the Western & Southern Open tennis tournament, Tuesday, Aug. 12, 2014, in Mason, Ohio.

Associated Press

## Tsonga, Venus Williams lose in Cincinnati

JOE KAY

AP Sports Writer

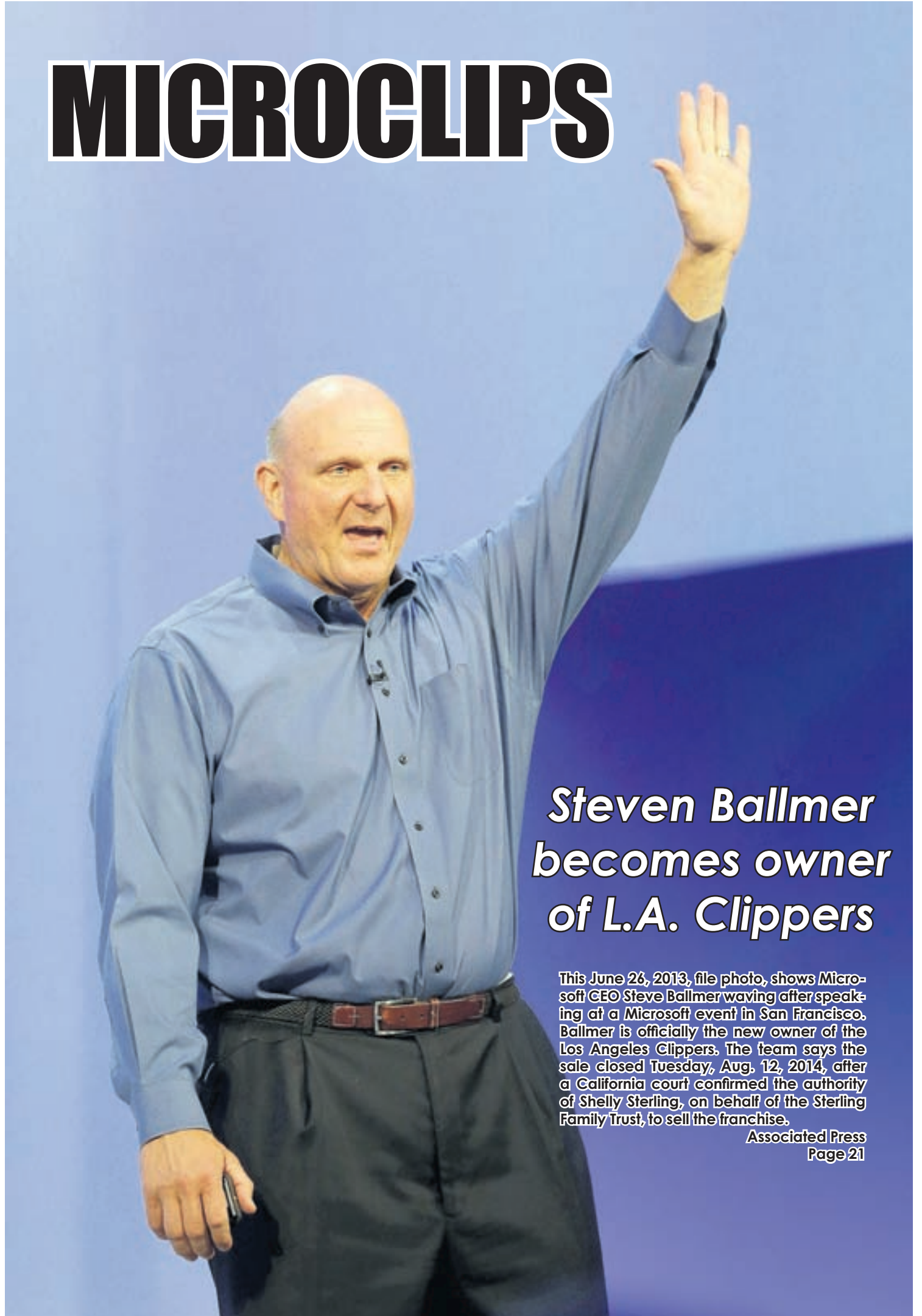
**MASON, Ohio (AP)** — Jo-Wilfried Tsonga followed his week of big upsets with an early exit Tuesday, losing his opening match at the Western & Southern Open. Two days after he won his second Masters title by beating Roger Federer in Toronto, he fell to Mikhail Youzhny 6-1, 6-4.

"I don't have the energy to compete," Tsonga said after the 68-minute match. "I just gave everything last week. Before the match, I believed I was able to play at a good level. But on court, I realized that was going to be impossible. And it was."

Venus Williams beat sister Serena while reaching the finals in Montreal on Sunday, finishing runner-up. She lost to Lucie Safarova 6-7 (2), 6-3, 6-4 in the first round here Tuesday.

Continued on Next Page

# MICROCLIPS



## Steven Ballmer becomes owner of L.A. Clippers

This June 26, 2013, file photo, shows Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer waving after speaking at a Microsoft event in San Francisco. Ballmer is officially the new owner of the Los Angeles Clippers. The team says the sale closed Tuesday, Aug. 12, 2014, after a California court confirmed the authority of Shelly Sterling, on behalf of the Sterling Family Trust, to sell the franchise.

Associated Press  
Page 21



## Cincinnati

Continued from Page 17

"I wish I could have felt today like I did in Montreal, just to make it more competitive," Williams said.

The tournament lost its other defending champion when Victoria Azarenka withdrew because of an injured right knee. Defending champion Rafael Nadal withdrew before the tournament because of an injured wrist.

The biggest intrigue is whether Novak Djokovic can finally win the one tournament that has eluded him. He has finished runner-up in Cincinnati four times. If he wins this week, he'll become the first player win titles at all nine ATP Masters events.

Djokovic was to play his opening match Tuesday night.

Fifth-seeded Maria Sharapova broke Madison Keys to go up 3-0 in the final set and held on for a 6-1, 3-6, 6-3 win that was

gratifying. She was coming off a loss in the third round at Montreal.

"I didn't have a great week last week," she said. "No matter who is across the net, it's never easy going out in the first round because you want to change that result around. You want to change your attitude and your performance and obviously the result."

Williams and Tsonga had energizing weeks in Canada and hoped to keep their momentum going in Cincinnati, using it as a springboard to the U.S. Open. Both soon realized their successful weeks came with a cost.

Williams arrived Sunday night and opened Tuesday morning, leaving little time to recover from her deep tournament run.

"Yeah, it was definitely a quick turnaround," she said. "Maybe it would have been a little better to play a little later in the day. But I think she just played so



**Venus Williams returns a volley to Lucie Safarova, from Czech Republic, during a first round match at the Western & Southern Open tennis tournament, Tuesday, Aug. 12, 2014, in Mason, Ohio.**

Associated Press

well. No matter what shot I hit, she hit a winner."

Safarova led 5-2 in the third set and appeared to have won a match point, but Williams challenged and the call was overturned. Williams rallied to win the set and then another.

"That's a terrible feeling," Safarova said. "You think you've won and you have

those emotions, and suddenly, you're back in the match against a great player. Then she broke me, and I thought, 'Uh, oh.' I've lost matches on challenges before. I told myself, 'I'm not losing this one.'"

Tsonga beat Djokovic, Andy Murray, Grigor Dimitrov and Federer to win in Toronto, the first time in 12

years a player beat four straight top 10 opponents at a Masters tournament. He arrived Monday and couldn't practice because of rain. He plans to rest for a few days.

"I didn't have enough today to compete at a good level," he said.

Azarenka's withdrawal is the latest setback in a season full of injuries. She's been sidelined for much of the year with an ailing left foot. She aggravated an injury to her right knee at Montreal, where she lost in the quarterfinals, and hoped a few days of rest would take care of it.

She decided to withdraw after practicing Tuesday morning.

"I started to feel a little bit better and did everything I could, but it's just not enough time for me to feel good to play a full match," she said. "I'm going to get more treatment and get more work done and should be good for the U.S. Open." □

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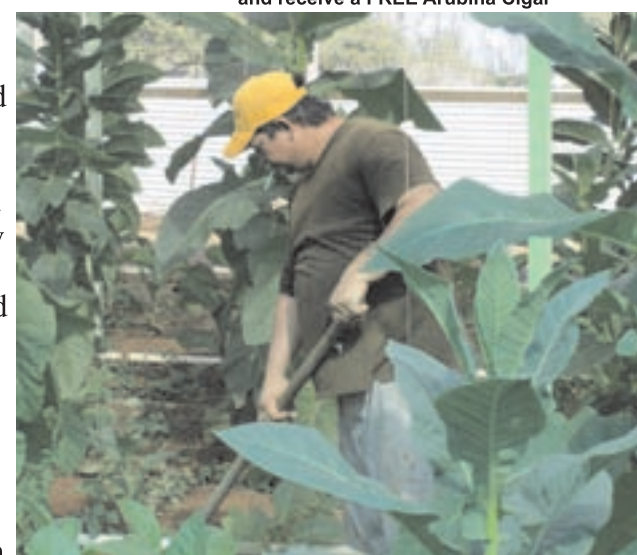


**ORANJESTAD-** Benjamin Petrocchi, a true native Aruban started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced hand rolled cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi always had a interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crops. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba, he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The whole process took him 10 years to perfect. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the moulding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. Their handmade cigar box is specially designed with their "Aruhiba" logo. Petrocchi considers

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## NL Capsules

# Snider hits 2 homers, Pirates top Tigers 11-6

**PITTSBURGH (AP)** — Travis Snider hit two home runs and Starling Marte had a bases-loaded triple as the Pirates coasted to a win against the Tigers. The loss, coupled with Kansas City's 3-2 win over Oakland, dropped the Tigers a half-game behind the now first-place Royals in the AL Central Division.

Justin Verlander (10-11) left after one inning with right shoulder soreness. He gave up five runs — four earned — on four hits. He walked two and struck out three.

Pittsburgh starter Jeff Locke (4-3) was responsible for four runs, eight hits and four walks in five-plus innings.

Martin hit his sixth home run of the year in the sixth inning, and Ike Davis followed with his eighth.

**BREWERS 3, CUBS 1**

**CHICAGO (AP)** — Yovani Gallardo pitched seven sparkling innings and Khris Davis had a tiebreaking RBI double, leading the Brewers to a victory over the Cubs.

Gallardo bounced back nicely from a sluggish outing against San Francisco, allowing one run and six hits while improving to 9-3 with a 3.00 ERA in 18 career starts against Chicago.

Mark Reynolds connected for his 20th homer.

Coming off his worst start of the year, Jake Arrieta (6-4) gave up two runs and five hits in 7 1-3 innings for the Cubs.

**DODGERS 6, BRAVES 2**

**ATLANTA (AP)** — Kevin Correia won in his debut with the Dodgers, outpitching All-Star Julio Teheran and leading Los Angeles over the slumping Braves.

Los Angeles has won four of six to increase its NL West lead to five games over idle San Francisco. The Braves have dropped 10 of 12 and fallen

four games behind NL East-leading Washington.

Correia was tied for the major league lead in losses with a 5-13 record when he was traded from Minnesota to the Dodgers on Saturday. He excelled for Los Angeles, giving up one run and four hits in six

eight hits in five innings.

Steve Cishek escaped the ninth to record his 30th save in 33 chances. With two outs, Cishek allowed an RBI triple by Kolten Wong and an RBI single by Matt Holliday allowing the Cardinals to pull to 6-5. Cishek struck out Matt Adams to end

Niese (6-8) gave up two runs on five hits to earn his first win since June 28.

David Buchanan (6-6) allowed three runs and four hits in six-plus innings.

Recker was in an 0-for-18 skid when he connected off reliever Justin De Fratus.



Pittsburgh Pirates' Travis Snider hits a solo home run in the eighth inning, his second of the baseball game against the Detroit Tigers on Monday, Aug. 11, 2014, in Pittsburgh. The Pirates won 11-6.

Associated Press

innings, striking out five and walking one.

Teheran (10-9) allowed five runs and nine hits in 7 1-3 innings.

Carl Crawford got three hits and drove in two runs for the Dodgers.

**MARLINS 6, CARDINALS 5**

**MIAMI (AP)** — Giancarlo Stanton hit two home runs and made a spectacular diving catch in right field to help the Marlins beat the Cardinals.

Marlins starter Tom Koehler (8-9) allowed three runs and

the game.

Jon Jay hit a two-run home run, Holliday had four hits, and Shelby Miller (8-9) allowed five runs in five innings for the Cardinals, who have lost three of four.

**METS 5, PHILLIES 3**

**PHILADELPHIA (AP)** — Slumping Anthony Recker hit a tiebreaking, three-run homer, Jonathon Niese pitched seven sharp innings and the Mets beat the Phillies.

Darin Ruf hit a two-run shot for the last-place Phillies.

**PADRES 4, ROCKIES 3**

**SAN DIEGO (AP)** — Yangervis Solarte hit a go-ahead, two-run home run in the seventh inning and the Padres beat the last-place Rockies for their ninth win in 12 games.

Solarte's third shot with the Padres, and ninth overall this season, came off Boone Logan (2-3) and was an inning after Colorado's Corey Dickerson hit a three-run homer to give the Rockies a 3-1 lead.

Nick Vincent (1-2) pitched two perfect innings for the win. □



**AL Capsules**

# Royals top division by edging Athletics 3-2

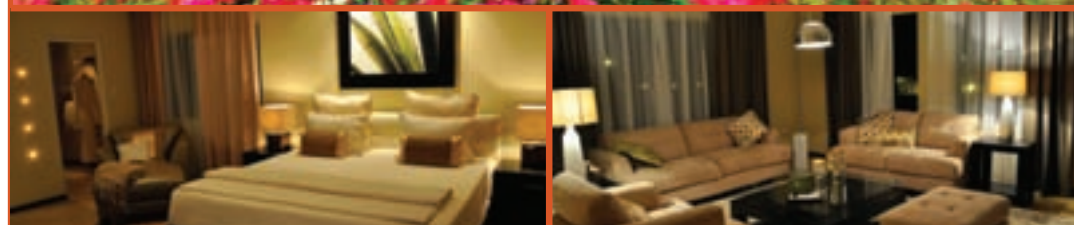
**The Associated Press**  
**KANSAS CITY, Missouri (AP)** — The Kansas City Royals won their eighth straight game and took over the AL Central lead Monday night when Yordano Ventura outdueled Sonny Gray during a 3-2 win over Oakland Athletics. The victory, coupled with a loss by Detroit in Pittsburgh, gave the long-suffering Royals a division lead at the latest point in a season since 2003. Alcides Escobar drove

in a run in the second inning before delivering a two-out single off Gray (12-6) in the seventh, putting Kansas City in front. Kelvin Herrera (3-2) took over for Ventura and tossed spotless seventh inning. **RAYS 7, RANGERS 0**  
**ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)** — Drew Smyly allowed three hits in his first win since the David Price trade, Matt Joyce had a two-run single and the Rays beat the Rangers. Smyly (7-10) struck out



**Kansas City Royals starting pitcher Yordano Ventura throws during the first inning of a baseball game against the Oakland Athletics, Monday, Aug. 11, 2014, in Kansas City, Mo.**

**Associated Press**



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nine in a career-high 7 2-3 innings to beat the Rangers for the second time this season. Colby Lewis (8-9) couldn't build on the momentum of his second career shutout, giving up five runs — two earned — in five innings. **TWINS 4, ASTROS 2**  
**HOUSTON (AP)** — Joe Mauer had two hits in his return from the disabled list, including a go-ahead RBI single in the ninth inning, to help the Twins to a win over the Astros. A pair of walks by Josh Fields (2-5) left runners at first and second with two outs in the ninth when Mauer's ground-ball single to left field scored Jordan Schafer. Brian Dozier also scored on the play. Brian Duensing (3-2) got the last two outs of the eighth inning for the win. Chris Carter and Jose Altuve both had solo homers for Houston and Jake Marisnick had a career-high four hits. Tommy Milone allowed eight hits and two runs in his debut with the Twins after being traded from Oakland for Sam Fuld

on July 31. **MARINERS 11, BLUE JAYS 1**  
**SEATTLE (AP)** — Felix Hernandez allowed one run in seven strong innings and Robinson Cano helped provide him with a jolt of run support as the Seattle Mariners romped to an 11-1 victory over the Toronto Blue Jays on Monday night. Opening the most anticipated August series in Seattle since 2007, Hernandez (13-3) made his 16th straight start of at least seven innings while allowing two earned runs or less. Hernandez needed just 96 pitches to get through seven and his only mistake was Jose Bautista's solo home run in the fourth. Cano ignited a seven-run sixth inning with his 10th homer of the season for a 3-1 lead. That was just the start. Mike Zunino followed with an RBI triple — the second triple of his career — and an RBI double by Endy Chavez ended the night for Toronto starter Drew Hutchison (8-10). □



# Clippers sale to Steve Ballmer goes through

**BETH HARRIS**

**AP Sports Writer**

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Steve Ballmer officially became the new owner of the Los Angeles Clippers on Tuesday.

The team said the record \$2 billion sale closed after a California court confirmed the authority of Shelly Sterling, on behalf of the Sterling Family Trust, to sell the franchise to the former Microsoft CEO. Her estranged husband, Donald Sterling, had unsuccessfully fought the sale of the team he owned since 1981 in court. Sterling bought the team in 1981 for \$12 million and presided over decades of losing seasons before engaging in a fierce legal battle with his estranged wife to hold on to his most prized asset.

The NBA Board of Governors had previously approved the sale.

"Really excited — in a pretty hardcore way — to continue the path to making the Clippers a better and better basketball team, and a better and better citizen of the Los Angeles community," Ballmer told The Associated Press in a phone interview.

The bizarre drama began in April when a recording surfaced of Donald Sterling scolding his girlfriend for bringing black men to Clippers games. The audio spurred the NBA to ban Sterling for life and fine him \$2.5 million.

Sterling was apologetic after the audio recording went viral, but his mea culpa backfired when he criticized Lakers great Magic Johnson, who had been photographed with Sterling's girlfriend, as a bad role model for kids because he had HIV. The 80-year-old real estate mogul was roundly condemned from locker rooms to the Oval Office, where President Barack Obama called Sterling's remarks "incredibly offensive racist statements."

With the NBA threatening to seize the team and auction it, Sterling initially gave his wife of 58 years permis-

sion to negotiate a sale but then refused to sign the Ballmer deal. He said he would sue the league instead and then revoked the trust, which his lawyers said effectively killed the deal.

Shelly Sterling removed Donald as a trustee after doctors found he had symptoms of Alzheimer's disease.

Adam Streisand, Ballmer's attorney, said Tuesday that Superior Court Judge Michael Levanas signed the order authorizing the sale even if Donald Sterling's attorneys filed an appeal.

He said even if Donald Sterling seeks an emergency order directing the judge to vacate his order, the attorney is confident an appellate court would agree that Levanas made the correct decision.

Donald Sterling's attorneys weren't immediately available to comment.

The sale ends some troubling concerns that had surrounded the team in recent months.

Doc Rivers would possibly have quit as coach if Sterling remained the owner, interim CEO Richard Parsons had testified. All-Star point guard Chris Paul, who also is president of the Players Association, might have sat out and convinced other players to join him. Sponsors who already started to flee after the Donald Sterling recording was released might have stayed away for good.

None of that appears to be a problem with Ballmer taking over what could be a powerhouse team next season. By agreeing to the record purchase price, he's already proven he's willing to spend in contrast to the famously frugal Sterling, long regarded as the worst owner in the NBA.

"The topic of conversation with Doc earlier was to focus in on what does it take and how can I help support him in achieving our mutual mission and in a pretty intense way continue to improve, be tenacious," Ballmer said. "If we do all that, good things will come

our way."

Ballmer was nearly an NBA owner last year before owners chose to keep the Kings in Sacramento, rather than allow them to be sold to a group that included Ballmer and moved to Seattle.

Now he's got his own team to share with his wife and three sons.

"We're a family that likes basketball," he told the AP. Ballmer said he fell in love with the sport as a seventh-grader in his hometown of Detroit. He was manager of his high school team, which included keeping statistics.



**FILE** - In this Oct. 16, 2010, file photo, Los Angeles Clippers team owner Donald Sterling watches his team play the Utah Jazz during the second half of their preseason NBA basketball game in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

## Mickelson in, Dufner out for U.S. Ryder Cup team



**Phil Mickelson reacts to his missed eagle putt on the 18th hole during the third round of the PGA Championship golf tournament at Valhalla Golf Club on Saturday, Aug. 9, 2014, in Louisville, Ky.**

Associated Press

**DOUG FERGUSON**

**AP Golf Writer**

**LOUISVILLE, Kentucky (AP)**

— Phil Mickelson picked up a small consolation Sunday after his runner-up finish in the PGA Championship. He extended his American record by qualifying for his 10th consecutive Ryder Cup team.

The PGA Championship was the final qualifying event for nine Americans to make the team that will try to win back the cup from Europe on Sept. 26-28 in Scotland.

Mickelson's feat is amazing in this era of greater depth. He qualified for his first team just two years after Jordan Spieth was born. They will be teammates at Gleneagles.

Making the team on his own was important to the five-time major champion, and he didn't want Tom Watson to spend one of his three captain's picks on him. Mickelson effectively wrapped up his spot going into the final round, and then nearly won the PGA Championship until falling

one shot short of Rory McIlroy.

With his runner-up finish — points count double in a major — Mickelson moved up to No. 5.

Masters champion Bubba Watson led the final points list for the first time and will play in his third Ryder Cup. He was followed by Jim Furyk, Rickie Fowler, Jimmy Walker, Mickelson, Matt Kuchar, Spieth, Patrick Reed and Zach Johnson.

Jason Dufner fell out of the top nine. Dufner withdrew from the PGA Championship on Thursday because of a neck injury and was not sure how long he would be out.

Johnson was assured of passing Dufner by making the cut. Johnson closed with a 77,

and he wound up 8.974 points ahead of Dufner, or the equivalent of \$8,974.

Ryan Moore was at No. 11, followed by Brendon Todd and Keegan Bradley, who missed the cut.

Watson will make his three picks on Sept. 2, giving players at least three weeks to audition for him next week at the Wyndham Championship,

and then the opening two FedExCup playoff events at The Barclays and Deutsche Bank Championship. □



# My Beating Heart

By: Dr Carlos Viana

"Be still my beating heart," a romantic phrase used as early as the 1600's to signify breathless excitement brought on by strong emotions of love. This extra heart beating or sometimes, skipping of a heartbeat, as in "my heart stood still" is known medically as temporary cardiac arrhythmia. Arrhythmias of the romantic type usually do not cause permanent problems. However, some arrhythmias may be life-threatening and need medical attention.

An arrhythmia is a disruption in the rhythm of the constant beating or contraction of the heart. The primary function of the heart is to pump blood with its life giving nutrients to all parts of the body. Each heartbeat is controlled by electrical impulses which travel through the heart. In a normal heart, these impulses occur in regular intervals. When something goes wrong with the heart's electrical system, the heartbeat becomes irregular, called arrhythmia.

An arrhythmia can be silent and not cause any obvious symptoms. A doctor can detect an irregular heartbeat during a physical exam by taking your pulse or through an electrocardiogram (ECG). People who do feel their heart beating irregularly tell me that they get a feeling of skipped heart beats, fluttering or feeling that their heart is racing or "running away". Other symptoms can include: pound-

ing in your chest, dizziness or feeling light-headed, fainting, shortness of breath, chest discomfort, weakness or fatigue.

A region of the human heart called the sinoatrial node (SA node) or pacemaker, sets the rate and timing at which the heart contracts. The SA node is the conductor of the electrical impulses. The contractions of the heart are controlled by chemical impulses. The chemicals that produce the heart impulses are potassium, sodium, and calcium. The rate at which these impulses fire controls the heart beat rate. The flow of these minerals in and out of heart is what makes the heart beat or contract and rest.

All cells require calcium for numerous functions. Most of us know how important calcium is for our bones. A deficiency or excess of calcium in the body causes problems with the nerves and muscles. Since the heart is a muscle, changes in the amount of calcium in the blood can cause the heart to beat slower or more rapidly. This change sometimes causes confusion or even coma. When a patient tells me that their heart skipped a beat, I make sure to send them to do a blood test to find out if they have too much calcium moving freely through their blood. Too much free calcium in the blood is a condition called hypercalcemia. Use of diuretics (water re-

ducing products) or too much vitamin D supplementation can increase the amount of free calcium in your blood, as can several more factors. Since most people are vitamin D deficient today, I always test vitamin D levels to be sure how much an individual should be supplementing.

Excessive consumption of milk and milk products which are high in calcium and certain antacids, especially calcium carbonate or sodium bicarbonate (baking soda) are a big problem in today's diets. If you use antacids often, you should not also use milk products. Modern diets have more calcium than magnesium. Magnesium is needed to carry the calcium into the bones. Supplementing a good diet with magnesium daily is important to balance minerals for most people. Calcium found in plant form is more readily available and absorbed in the body than pasteurized cow's milk. Cows are supposed to eat green plants like grass to get their calcium. Humans should get their calcium from green vegetables such as broccoli and spinach. Brown rice, almonds and some beans are also good plant sources of calcium.

Standard treatment of arrhythmia includes pharmaceutical drugs and implanted automatic defibrillators or artificial pacemakers. These produce electrical impulses synthetically through the heart. However natural methods work well in prevention. Relaxation techniques to reduce stress such as deep

breathing exercises, yoga, meditation, or acupuncture are a good start. If you smoke, get help to stop, acupuncture and natural supplements such as 5 HTP (5 Hydroxy-tryptophan) can help. Hypnosis is also a proven support. Limiting intake of caffeine, alcohol and stimulant drugs, especially those found in some over the counter cough and cold medications. Some such medications contain ingredients that can cause irregular heart rhythms. Learn to read labels and ask questions.

If you notice that your irregular heart rhythm occurs more often with certain activities such as strenuous exercise, you should avoid them. I include magnesium supplementation in all my patients to help carry more calcium into the bones and support the delicate balance of heart minerals. Beans, carrots, avocados and bananas are all good sources of potassium.

People with arrhythmia have a greater chance of developing heart disease. Heart disease is still the number one cause of death in the Western World. Obesity and high blood pressure can also contribute to arrhythmia and increased risk of developing heart disease. Although, high cholesterol is a popular belief in contributing to heart disease risk, half of all heart attacks occur in people with normal cholesterol levels. There are good (HDL) and bad cholesterol (LDL and Triglycerides). Diet and lifestyle are also vital in controlling this, but that's another article.

Get The Point! Before you begin drugs to correct your heartbeat, get tested to check your free calcium and vitamin D levels. A clinical nutritionist can help you balance your levels of calcium, potassium and magnesium with natural foods and supplements before your "heart stands still," and you need surgery to place a pacemaker in. Let us help you "still your beating heart" with the excitement of a simple scientific test and the romance of nature.

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in Shanghai, China; a Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), a fellow member of the Board Certified Association of Addiction Professionals (C.Ad.), the Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist and specializes in Anti-Aging Medicine, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA NATURAL HEALING CENTER NV, Kibaima 7, Aruba, TEL: 585-1270, Web Site: [www.vianaheal.com](http://www.vianaheal.com)

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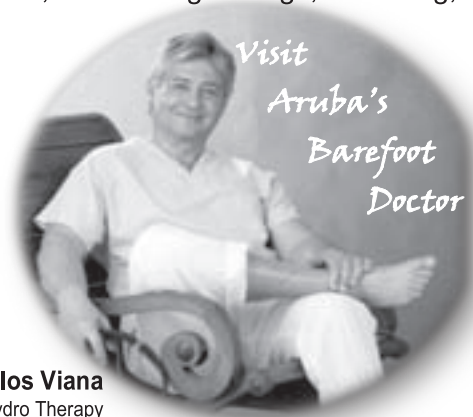
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# Busted: 5 Myths about Facebook's messenger app

MAE ANDERSON

AP Technology Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Facebook's recent effort to force people to adopt its standalone mobile messaging app has privacy-concerned users up in arms. Many of them believe the app is especially invasive.

One blog from the Huffington Post published in December has gone viral, making the rounds on the social network recently because it claims the app gives Facebook "direct control over your mobile device" and allows Facebook to call phone numbers without a users' intervention and send text messages without confirmation, but none of that is accurate.

In truth, Facebook Messenger isn't any more invasive than Facebook's main app —or other similar applications.

The fear and confusion stem from a message that greets owners of Android devices when they install the app. It explains that the app requires permission access to the device's camera, microphone, list of contacts and other information.

Here's what Facebook's mobile messaging app does and doesn't do.

—Myth: You have to use the Messenger app if you want to send messages to your Facebook friends.

—Reality: While it's required to download if you are using Facebook's mobile app on the iPhone or Android smartphones, you can avoid it if use the Facebook messenger service on your desktop or laptop, iPad or even the mobile Facebook website.

—Myth: The Facebook Messenger app's terms of service are different from —and more intrusive than— Facebook's own official terms.

—Reality: Facebook's terms of service are the same for all its mobile apps, including the main Facebook app. You can read it here: [m.facebook.com/policies](http://m.facebook.com/policies). What's upsetting people is the list



In this June 11, 2014 photo, a man walks past a Facebook sign in an office on the Facebook campus in Menlo Park, Calif.

Associated Press

of "permissions" they see when they download and install the app on an Android phone. It's a long list with 10 items, each of which states that the app needs access to features on your phone including contacts, calendar, location data and Wi-Fi information. Sure, that's a lot of personal data. But it's the same data most messaging apps have access to. On the iPhone, users don't get the list of permissions when they install the app, but when they use it, permissions pop up individually. You can view the app's list of permissions here: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.facebook.orca>. Click "view details" under Permissions.

—Myth: Facebook's Messenger app will use your phone's microphone to record you.

—Reality: The app needs permission to use your phone's microphone and camera. But it requires that access because the microphone is needed for voice calling, a service that the standalone app offers that the Facebook app doesn't, and sending sound with videos. Same with the camera, it needs access if you want to send your friends pictures.

—Myth: Facebook will direct the app to send SMS, or text, messages without your permission.

—Reality: One of the permissions does say that Facebook can edit, receive, read and send SMS messages. But the company says the reason it wants to send and receive SMS messages is so that if you add a phone number to your Messenger ac-

count, you can confirm by a confirmation code that Facebook sends via text message.

—Myth: The Messenger app is new.

—Reality: Facebook's Messenger app has been around since 2011. In April, it started requiring that users in Europe download and install the app if they wish to send messages to Facebook friends. Two

weeks ago, the company said it would expand the requirement to other parts of the world. Facebook says it's forcing users to make the switch because a standalone app offers more features. For example, the app is faster, it offers a selfie cam, stickers and can be used to reach people on your contact list who are not Facebook users. □

## Robots guide nights at the museum at Tate Britain

**LONDON (AP)** — Tate Britain is inviting art fans to a night at the museum — though robots, not T. rexes, will be roaming this time. The London art museum says for five nights beginning Wednesday, people from around the world can get an after-hours tour online thanks to four roaming robots fitted with lights, cameras and sensors designed to let them move around the rooms in the dark.

A live commentary will be streamed on the museum's website and viewers can get a chance to control the robots.

The project, called "After Dark," was developed



This is an undated Tate Britain handout photo, via the PA, made available Tuesday Aug. 12, 2014 of an After Dark project robot in front of Jacob Epstein's *The Visitation* (1926) inside Tate Britain in London.

Associated Press

using space exploration technologies. It was the winner of the inaugural IK Prize, which is expected to

be handed out every year to projects that widens access to the arts through digital technology. □



## Wall Street dips on geopolitical risks

**KEN SWEET**

**AP Business Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)**—The stock market pulled back slightly Tuesday, following two days of gains, as investors focused on the damage that ongoing geopolitical tensions were causing the global economy.

Energy stocks were among the biggest decliners, dragged down by lower oil prices.

U.S. stock indexes opened modestly higher but turned lower at mid-morning and stayed there for the rest of the day. Investors took a cue from Europe, where Germany's benchmark index fell more than 1 percent and France's CAC 40 fell nearly 1 percent.

An indicator of German investor confidence

ly July peak.

"The Ukraine-Russia situation may be at a standstill politically, but it is weighing on the German economy and, more broadly, the eurozone," said Sean Lynch, a managing director at Wells Fargo Private Bank.

It has been a quiet week for investors overall, with little economic data or company earnings to work through. Absent hard data to pull the market higher, the current trend for the market is down, Lynch said. Fears of a Russian invasion of Ukraine have faded in recent days, but worries about conflicts around the globe are likely to keep investors on edge in the coming weeks.

A convoy of more than 260 Russian trucks, report-

rich Iraq. On Tuesday, that nation's embattled prime minister, Nouri al-Maliki, tried to stay in power as Iraqi politicians and the international community rallied behind a political competitor.

The Dow Jones industrial average lost 9.44 points, or 0.1 percent, to 16,560.54. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 3.17 points, or 0.2 percent, to 1,933.75 and the Nasdaq composite fell 12.08 points, or 0.3 percent, to 4,389.25.

Energy stocks in the S&P 500 fell 0.7 percent, the most of the 10 sectors in the index. Kinder Morgan declined nearly 2 percent after rising 9 percent the day before on news it would combine several companies under its control. Anadarko Pe-



**Jonah Peretti, left, founder and chief executive of BuzzFeed with Ben Smith, editor in chief, at offices in New York, Aug. 7, 2014.**

(Chang W. Lee/The New York Times)

## Why BuzzFeed is trying to shift its strategy now

**CLAIRE CAIN MILLER**

**© 2014 New York Times**

In an interview about a new investment in BuzzFeed, Jonah Peretti, its co-founder and chief executive, told The New York Times, "We're organizing ourselves to be a media company for the way people consume media today."

But what about the way people consume media tomorrow?

While many people now find their news on Facebook, it's easy to forget that very recently they found it on Google, and will surely find it somewhere else in the not-too-distant future. The danger for media companies, then, is to focus too much on how stories are delivered and too little on what the stories say.

BuzzFeed has been clear about its strategy: Publish items that people want to share on social media. It called Facebook the "new 'front page' for the Internet." The strategy appears to be working. BuzzFeed's new \$50 million investment values the online media company at \$850 million - one year after Jeff Bezos bought The Washington Post for \$250 million.

Yet just a few years ago, readers were finding their news on search engines, and Google was said to be the new front page. That

trend also spawned companies, like Demand Media and Huffington Post, which publish articles based on popular searches.

Here are data from a slice of the Internet - the 350,000 websites in the Shareaholic network, which gets 400 million unique visitors a month - that illustrate the shift. Last summer, 40 percent of traffic came from search engines and 14 percent came from social networks. This summer, about 29 percent of traffic comes from each.

Something similar happened at BuzzFeed. At the beginning of last year, Google and Facebook sent about the same amount of traffic to its network of sites. By the end of the year, Facebook sent 3.5 times as much traffic as Google.

(Perhaps surprisingly, Twitter is not driving traffic to news stories the way Facebook is. At Shareaholic, Twitter accounts for 1 percent of social traffic compared with 23 percent from Facebook. At BuzzFeed last year, Twitter's share of social traffic shrank to 14 percent from 22 percent.)

If such a striking change from search to social happened in a year, who knows how we'll be reading next summer? Even the investors who just gave BuzzFeed \$50 million can't predict the future. □



**Trader Andrew Silverman, left, works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. The stock market pulled back slightly Tuesday, following two days of gains, as investors focused on the damage that ongoing geopolitical tensions were causing the global economy.**

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

dropped to its lowest level in 20 months. Investors worried that the Ukraine crisis will start dragging down the German economy, Europe's largest. The continent is much more exposed to Russia than the U.S. is. Europe also gets most of its natural gas from Russia.

The Ukraine situation has dragged the German stock market down more than 8 percent from its ear-

ly packed with supplies, moved toward Russia's border with Ukraine on Tuesday, but Kiev said the goods would only be allowed to cross if they were inspected by the International Red Cross. Ukraine is fearful that Russia could use the move as a cover for sending troops into the separatist-held territory.

Investors are also watching political machinations and violence unfold in oil-

and Diamond Offshore Drilling fell more than 2 percent.

Energy stocks have declined noticeably in the last month, due largely to falling oil and natural gas prices. Brent crude, which is traded in the U.K. and is considered a broader gauge of the international oil market, is trading at a nine-month low. U.S. crude is trading at a seven-month low. □



## Appetite for online orders lifts Just Eat

CHAD BRAY

© 2014 New York Times

**LONDON** - Reporting its results for the first time as a public company, Just Eat, an online food ordering service, said Tuesday that its profit tripled in the first half of the year.

The service, which allows users to order food from local restaurants via websites or mobile apps, raised 360.1 million pounds (about \$604 million) in its initial public offering on the London Stock Exchange in April. The debut came just before that of GrubHub, a similar service in the United States, which priced its IPO in New York.

Profit for Just Eat rose to 6 million pounds in the first six months of 2014, from 2 million pounds in the same period a year earlier, the company said. Earnings before income tax, depreciation and amortization jumped to 15.9 million pounds in the first half of the year, up from 2.3 million pounds in the first half of 2013, the company reported.

The company - which operates in 13 countries including Brazil, France, and India - said its first-half increase was driven primarily by growth in its British operations, which account for 74 percent of its revenue. The company also said that orders via mobile phones and tablets had exceeded 50 percent of its orders for the first time.

"We are accelerating our mobile strategy across all our geographies and in the U.K. Over 56 percent of orders are already being placed via apps or through a mobile device," David Buttress, Just Eat's chief executive, said in a news release.

The stock has been under pressure since shortly after its debut, with a cooling in the IPO market affecting several companies that went public this year.

During the first half of the year, Just Eat's revenue rose 58 percent to 69.8 million pounds. □

## Like stocks, junk bonds show investor jitters

STEVE ROTHWELL

AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) —

The stock market isn't the only place that's been signaling jitters among investors. The \$2.3 trillion market for risky U.S. corporate debt has also been under pressure.

A five-year rally in junk bonds abruptly stalled

will fall.

Junk, or high-yield, bonds are sold by companies with relatively high debt in comparison to their income. If yields on safer bonds like Treasuries were to climb, they would draw more investor interest. Companies selling junk bonds would then have to increase their

Junk-bond yields have fallen so far that many investors now feel the risks outweigh the potential return. Five years ago, the average junk bond yielded 11.5 percent. By June, the yield had dropped to a record low of 4.83 percent, according to data from the investment bank Barclays.

Fargo Wealth Management. "Now is a time to dial it down."

Cronk says junk bonds may continue to slump as the economy improves and investors push up Treasury yields in anticipation of the Fed nearing its first interest rate increase since May 2006.

"The risk-reward trade-off is not that attractive anymore," says Collin Martin, senior fixed-income research analyst with the Schwab Center for Financial Research. "We just don't think that investors are being compensated for the risks involved in high-yield bond investing." The market for risky bonds has become more mainstream since the 1980s, when trading was dominated by Michael Milken, the junk-bond financier, and his now-defunct firm Drexel Burnham Lambert. In those days, the market made headlines for helping fund takeovers of companies such as RJR Nabisco. Milken's reign as the king of junk bonds ended in 1989, when he pleaded guilty to securities fraud, defrauding a mutual fund and other felonies. Investors plowed \$55.01 billion into junk bond mutual funds last year, more than double the \$22.1 billion total for 2009, according to data from the Investment Company Institute.

**Continued on Page 27**



In this June 18, 2014 photo, a television monitor at a trading post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange shows the decision of the Federal Reserve. Like with other higher-risk investments, investors have pulled back from junk, or high yield, bonds because they worry about the end of the Federal Reserve's policy near-zero interest rates.

(AP Photo/Richard Dre)

last month. As with other higher-risk investments, investors have pulled back mainly because they worry about the end of the Federal Reserve's policy of near-zero interest rates. Investors expect the central bank to raise rates sometime next year, and that means the value of bonds currently held in portfolios

yields to compensate investors for the higher risk. Doing so would diminish the value of junk bonds currently in circulation.

In July, those concerns hit the market, leaving junk bond investors with a 1.3 percent loss for the month. It was the worst monthly performance since June 2013.

As a result, investment advisers have become less enthusiastic about recommending junk bonds to clients.

There is often some role for high-yield bonds in investors' portfolios, but "there's a time to dial it up, and a time to dial it down," says Darrell Cronk, deputy chief investment officer at Wells

## Alibaba aims to collect more from payments affiliate

MICHAEL J. de la MERCED

© 2014 New York Times

Even as the Alibaba Group, the Chinese e-commerce juggernaut, moves closer toward one of the most anticipated initial public offerings in recent history, potential investors have wondered about the future of its ties to its Alipay online payments affiliate.

On Tuesday, Alibaba disclosed that it had reworked its bonds with the affiliate - and should be reaping more money from that relationship in the future.

In an amended prospec-

tus, Alibaba said that it plans to sell its microfinance loan business to the parent of Alipay for \$518 million. What it gets in return is this: Instead of collecting roughly half of the pre-tax income of Alipay alone, it will instead reap 37.5 percent of the entire financial business, including the microfinance business and current and future operations like asset management, insurance and other offerings.

And should Alipay go public, Alibaba stands to make more from that stock sale. Before Tuesday's agree-

ment, the e-commerce company would have collected between \$2 billion and \$6 billion from the online payment company's IPO. Now, it will receive at least \$9.38 billion, with no cap on the proceeds.

The complex agreement helps bring at least somewhat closer together Alibaba and Alipay, which separated three years ago amid some controversy. Alibaba's main founder and chairman, Jack Ma, split off the business because of what he said were government rules controlling foreign owner-

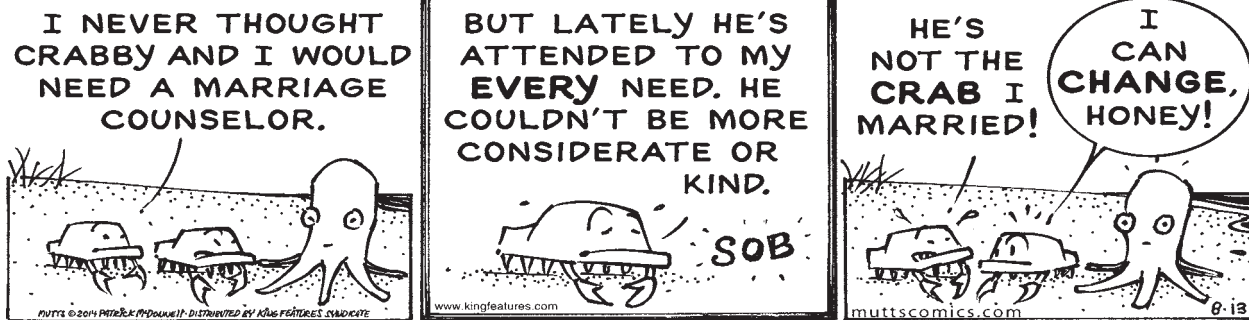
ship of financial institutions. He now owns just under 50 percent of the payments company.

Yahoo, Alibaba's biggest investor, protested. A fierce squabble ensued, although it was eventually settled with an agreement that governs how Alipay is tied to its former parent - the pact that was updated Tuesday.

Alibaba now says it has the right to buy up to 33 percent of Alipay's parent company if such an arrangement wins the blessing of the Chinese government. □



## Mutts



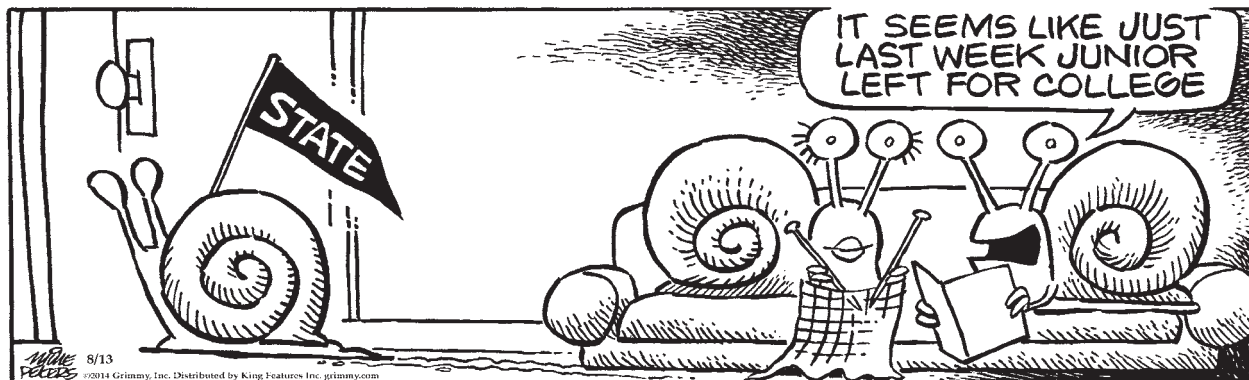
## 6 Chix



## Blondie



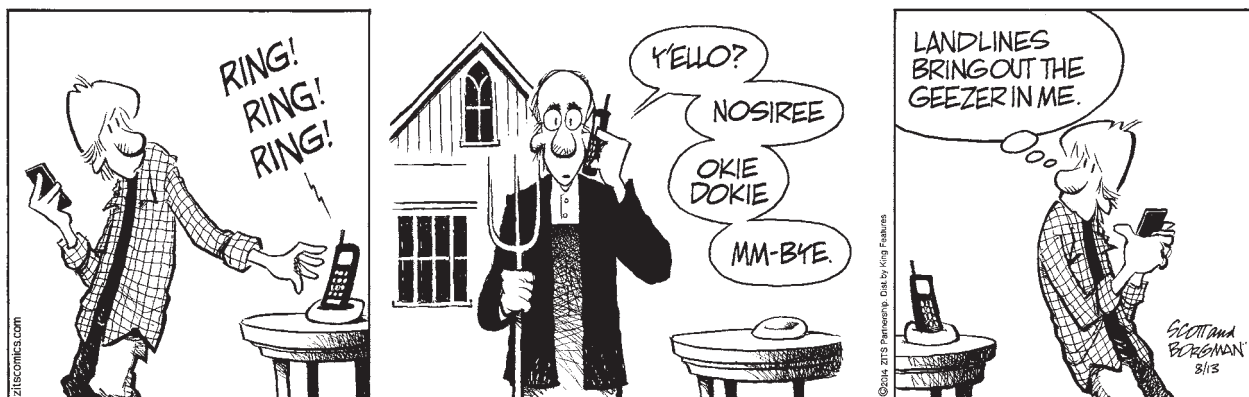
## Mother Goose & Grimm



## Baby Blues



## Zits



## Conceptis Sudoku

		9	2	8				
	6				5			
1		7				6		
9		4				2		
3			6			5		
	5				3	7		
		2	1	5	8	4	6	
						9	7	1
							5	2

Difficulty Level ★★★

8/13

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

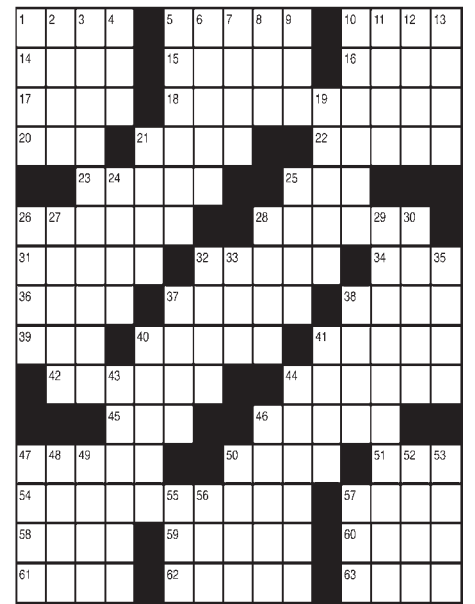
1	9	4	2	6	3	5	8	7
7	2	3	5	8	1	4	9	6
8	5	6	9	4	7	3	2	1
9	1	2	7	3	8	6	5	4
4	7	5	6	2	9	8	1	3
3	6	8	1	5	4	2	7	9
6	8	7	3	9	5	1	4	2
5	3	9	4	1	2	7	6	8
2	4	1	8	7	6	9	3	5

### ACROSS

- Eats dinner
- Give a portion away
- Ocean liner or schooner
- Shoelace problem
- Absorbent cloth
- Unclothed
- In a lazy way
- Certain to happen
- Teriyaki marinade
- Singles
- Staircase piece
- Clumsy and awkward
- Pres. Coolidge, to friends
- Puts on, as a play
- Complains childishly
- Strong-; overpowered
- Traffic collision
- Crow's remark
- to rest; buried
- Winner
- Couch
- Koch & Begley
- Wading bird
- James Earl
- Engraver
- Hombre's wife
- Regulation
- Charley horse, for example
- Up and about
- Blood vessel
- "Too Late"; Carole King hit
- Strolling
- Glasgow native
- Picture card
- Cowboy's rope
- Uncommon
- Kill
- Nice; charming
- Undergarment

### DOWN

- Zooms down snowy slopes
- Disassemble



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

8/13/14

### Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

SAGA	ROADS	IRON
ERAS	OWLET	NILE
ACTS	DELVE	FLEA
SHEARED	OIL	LIEST
UFO	PINED	
STALK	DAD	VEERS
QUEST	TON	HELMET
ALI	LOGICAL	BAA
KIDNAP	COD	TEDS
SPEED	SKY	HARSH
ALLAY	CUB	
RETREAT	CANASTA	
ACRE	CIGAR	SHIP
PHIS	ERASE	CEDE
SOOT	DEBTS	ODES

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8/13/14

- |                          |                     |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 37 Rowing team           | 48 Spinnaker or jib |
| 38 Male children         | 49 Alacore, e.g.    |
| 40 Wall diagram          | 50 Clamp            |
| 41 Actress Smart         | 52 Actress          |
| 43 Emotionally dependent | 53 Ladder rung      |
| 44 Outdoor faucet        | 55 Golfer Ernie     |
| 46 In a sort of          | 56 Uncooked         |
| 47 Invites               | 57 Last year's jrs. |



## Junk bonds

Continued from Page 25

Signs now suggest that investors have started pulling back. As the high-yield market started to wobble in June, investors withdrew \$4.9 billion, according to the most recent data from ICI.

The recent outflows came as Fed Chair Janet Yellen said that she was concerned that investors were becoming complacent about the risks of investing in high-yield bonds.

Yellen told reporters in June that the market was showing evidence of "reach-for-yield" behavior, when investors focus on return irrespective of risk. One sign of this behavior is the fact that investors have been demanding less of a premium to hold high-yield debt compared to high-quality government debt.

At the start of 2012, investors received a yield premium of 6.99 percent over Treasury notes, which are widely considered to be risk-free. By June, that cushion had fallen to 3.23 percent.

Some investors say that the fall in junk-bond yields is justified because the risk of companies defaulting on their debt has declined.

Company executives have taken a more cautious approach to managing their businesses, says James Keenan, a managing director at fund manager BlackRock, who oversees the company's corporate bond business. Instead of spending money on expansion, they're focused more on paring debt. Many companies have used the proceeds from bond sales to refinance their existing debt at lower rates.

"We're in an overall pretty healthy economic environment, and most of these corporations have pretty stable balance sheets," Keenan says.

The number of companies defaulting on their debt has fallen significantly since the Great Recession ended in June 2009. That year, 195 U.S. companies defaulted on \$516.1 billion of debt, according to data from the ratings company Standard & Poor's. By 2013, the total had dropped to 45 companies defaulting on just \$64.9 billion. □

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OV \$46k  
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\$49k

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#### club

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1B Oceanfront \$8500  
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# U.S. Gulf oyster harvest nose-dives since BP spill

STACEY PLAISANCE

Associated Press

HOPEDALE, Louisiana (AP)

— Gulf Coast oyster harvests have declined dramatically in the four years since a BP PLC oil well blew in the U.S.'s worst offshore oil disaster, spilling millions of gallons off Louisiana's coast in 2010.

Fisherman Randy Slavich dragged a clunky metal net through an underwater oyster bed recently in Lake Machias, a brackish body opening into the Gulf of Mexico. For generations before the spill, this has been a bountiful lake for harvesting oysters.

His cage-like net pulled up dozens of empty, lifeless oyster shells.

"It's not good," he said, pushing the shells back into the water. "We've never seen it like this, not out here."

Even after a modest rebound last year, thousands of acres of oyster beds where oil from the well washed ashore are producing less than a third of their pre-spill harvest.

Most worrisome to Slavich is the dearth of oyster larvae — future generations



In this Thursday, July 24, 2014 photo, third-generation fisherman Randy Slavich inspects oysters pulled from his private oyster lease in the Lake of Second Trees in St. Bernard Parish, La..

Associated Press

of oysters — once found in abundance on shells in the lake, east of the muddy bends of the Mississippi River.

Whether the spill contributed to the decline is part of an ongoing study; hurricanes, overfishing and influxes of oyster-killing fresh water had already put pressure on the industry.

"To the extent that oys-

ter populations are down, data from government studies have indicated it is likely due to other conditions," Geoff Morrell, a BP senior vice president, said in a statement.

The millions of gallons of oil that spewed into the Gulf caused fishing grounds to be closed for fear the oil and the chemical dispersant used to break it up

would make seafood inedible. More visible were the oil-covered dolphins, birds and other sea life that either died in the oil or required rescues.

But whether the spill crippled spawning and swimming oyster larvae that had not yet settled onto oyster beds isn't yet known, said Thomas Soniat, an oyster biologist at the University of

New Orleans.

A BP "white paper" states that Louisiana biologists did not find any oil on the oyster beds they checked in 2010, 2011 or 2012. The paper also said the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's checks on oysters after the spill either found no hydrocarbons or levels far too low to cause health problems.

Regardless of the cause, the harvest is way down and prices are way up.

Louisiana has historically accounted for about half of the Gulf oyster harvest and about a third of U.S. production. Louisiana's public reefs typically would produce anywhere from 3 million to 7 million pounds of oyster meat a year. In 2010 and 2011, production dropped to barely 2 million pounds, then nosedived to just 563,100 pounds in 2012 before rising to 954,950 pounds last year.

Mississippi and Alabama, where some oil washed ashore during the spill, also had very poor oyster production since 2010.

"It's pretty disturbing," said Chris Nelson, owner of Bon Secour Fisheries Inc. □

## Greek PM says important tomb found in northern dig

COSTAS KANTOURIS

Associated Press

AMPHIPOLIS, Greece (AP)

— Archaeologists excavating an ancient mound in northern Greece have uncovered what appears to be the entrance to an important tomb from about the end of the reign of warrior-king Alexander the Great, officials said Tuesday.

Prime Minister Antonis Samaras, who visited the tightly-guarded site Tuesday, said the discovery "is clearly extremely important" and dates between 325-300 B.C.

Alexander, who started from the northern Greek region of Macedonia to build an empire stretching as far as India, died in 323 B.C. and was buried

in Egypt. His fellow royals were traditionally interred in a cemetery near Vergina, far to the west, where the lavishly-furnished tomb of Alexander's father, Philip II, was discovered in the 1970s.

But archaeologists believe the apparently unlooted Amphipolis grave, which is surrounded by a surprisingly long and well-built wall with courses of marble decorations, may have belonged to a senior ancient official.

Excavator Katerina Peristeri has argued that the mound was originally topped by a large stone lion that was unearthed a century ago some 5 kilometers from the site. In the past, the lion has been associated with Laomedon of Mytilene, one of Alexan-



A tourist takes a picture of a 4th century BC marble Lion of Amphipolis, some 5 kilometers from a large funeral mound currently under excavation by Greek archaeologists that Prime Minister Antonis Samaras visited on Tuesday, Aug. 12, 2014.

Associated Press

der's military commanders who became governor of Syria after the king's death. "The excavation will answer the crucial question of who was buried inside," Samaras said.

The tomb is expected to be opened in the next two weeks.

So far, workers have unveiled a flight of 13 steps that lead to a broad path,

flanked by masonry walls, which end in a built-up arch covering two headless, wingless sphinxes — mythical creatures that blend human, bird and lion characteristics.

A strong police guard has been mounted around the fenced-off mound, where earth-moving machinery was shifting tons of dirt from the excavation Tuesday. □



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# Al-Jazeera America logs first anniversary

DAVID BAUDER

AP Television Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Al-Jazeera America marks its first anniversary on the air next week, and if you haven't watched much, you're not alone.

The news network has recorded some startlingly low ratings and recently shown signs of retrenchment with layoffs and by cutting some live newscasts. Al-Jazeera America has also won awards for its work, seen some recent audience growth and its chief executive insists a steady growth plan is on target.

After several unsuccessful years trying to get its English-language network carried widely in the United States, the Qatar-based Al-Jazeera bought and closed Al Gore's Current TV network last year and set up the U.S.-focused AJAM to replace Al-Jazeera English in the U.S. It is now available in nearly 60 million cable and satellite homes, just over half the U.S. market.

"The quality of the channel is very much what was promised," said Dave Marash, a former reporter for ABC's "Nightline" and Al-Jazeera English. "It is serious of purpose, by far the best news channel available to American viewers." Al-Jazeera America won Peabody Awards for doc-



**This Aug. 20, 2013 file photo shows Al-Jazeera America editorial newsroom staff preparing for their first broadcast in New York. Al-Jazeera America marks its first anniversary on the air next week. The news network has recorded some startlingly low ratings and recently shown signs of retrenchment with layoffs and by cutting some live newscasts.**

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umentaries on cholera in Haiti and a deadly factory fire in Bangladesh. The network had six first-place finishes in the National Headliner Awards, which honors notable journalism. Two weeks ago, the National Association of Black Journalists honored AJAM for "creative, compelling, character-driven storytelling."

Aside from award judges, not many people have seen those stories.

So far this year, Al-Jazeera America has averaged 17,000 viewers in prime time, ticking up to 23,000

during the first week of fighting in Gaza. CNN has averaged 453,000 and Fox News Channel 1.87 million in the same period, the Nielsen company said.

Ehab Al Shihabi, AJAM's chief executive, considers that comparison unfair. The other news networks have been operating much longer, and are available in more homes. Their audiences were small at the start, if they even allowed Nielsen to measure them, he said.

AJAM's first year should instead be judged on the quality of its journalism and

growth in distribution, he said.

"Americans are not yet aware of Al-Jazeera America," Al Shihabi said. "We are, on a gradual basis, continuing our advertising, continuing our outreach. Awareness and perception will take time."

While the Israeli-Palestinian conflict gives the network a chance to showcase strength in international reporting, Al Shihabi said it also covers stories in the U.S. that its rivals don't. The prime-time newsmagazine "America Tonight" recently traveled to all 50 states for

stories — reporting on gang violence in Alaska, a slow-moving project to sculpt the image of Crazy Horse on a South Dakota mountain and a woman in Detroit who makes coats for homeless people. Next month, director Alex Gibney delivers a new documentary on high school students' lives.

"I do think there's a market for it," said Jon Klein, a former CNN U.S. president whose new startup just launched an online channel for Sarah Palin. "But to launch a cable channel in America today is a scary proposition because there is so much clutter in the marketplace. It is as much a marketing proposition as a content proposition."

He's not sure Al-Jazeera America has broken through with its message, saying people seem to be more aware of the swash-buckling news organization Vice. There were rough times for selling hard news, too. Fox and MSNBC are more known for their points of view while CNN, which suffered through some of its worst ratings ever this spring, is beefing up its non-fiction, non-news programming. Marash believes buying Current was a mistake because Al-Jazeera English was having modest success streaming its channel online. □



**This undated image released by ABC shows Charles Esten, center, performing on "Nashville: On the Record," ABC Music Lounge's and ABC Digital Media Studio's "Nashville"-inspired docu-web series.**

Associated Press

KRISTIN M. HALL

Associated Press

**NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)** — Actor Charles Esten has more at stake in the new season of the ABC drama "Nashville" than resolving

the cliffhanger that left his character, singer-songwriter Deacon Claybourne, in the midst of a lyricist love triangle.

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## 'Nashville' goes live in new season premiere

in a band and stage productions long before becoming an actor, will perform a song he co-wrote with Grammy-nominated country singer Deana Carter, "I Know How to Love You Now." It's his first co-written tune to appear on the show, but Esten has had plenty of practice after opening with co-star Clare Bowen for country stars Jennifer Nettles and Alan Jackson on a few shows during the summer hiatus.

"I've played some big rooms, but none as big as the whole United States,"

said Esten in an interview while shooting on location in Nashville.

"Nashville" has made a successful side business out of the music from the show, with four collections of soundtracks that have sold a combined 627,000 copies, according to Nielsen Soundscan.

Lennon Stella, who plays teenager Maddie Conrad, said the live performances are more theater than television.

"There's no taking it back," said Stella, who got her start singing cover songs on YouTube with her younger

sister Maisy. "I think it's pretty risky, but exciting for the show."

Esten and actor Chris Carmack will perform in the Sept. 24 show live from the show's Bluebird Cafe set. The studio versions of the songs will be available for download on iTunes immediately after the show.

"As always, when you perform at the Bluebird, it's generally live anyway, so this is not really different," Esten said, referring to the real Nashville venue that the show duplicated on a soundstage. "It will be as real as it should be." □



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**Associated Press**

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## This Is Reform?



**JOE NOCERA**  
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Too little, too late.

On Thursday, the 18 members of the NCAA's Division I board of directors voted 16-2 to allow the five richest conferences to play by their own rules, at least a little bit.

Those who have been advocating this "reform" - especially the athletic directors and conference commissioners of the Big 5 conferences - have talked endlessly about how it is all about giving the athletes at the 65 big-time schools that make up their conferences a better deal.

If only. To be sure, the new Division I plan would give the players some help that they haven't had before. The schools would be able to offer their athletes a small stipend so their athletic scholarships would cover the "full cost of attendance." They could pass rules giving their athletes better medical insurance. The players could gain the ability to hire agents and advisers while they are still playing college ball. And so on.

But these changes hardly constitute wholesale reform. Rather, the big conferences thought they were doing the minimum they could get away with to make their problems go away, even as lawsuits have been bearing down on them, a union drive has taken place among the Northwestern University football players, and critics have given full-throated voice to the enormous inequities in big-time college football and men's basketball, the two sports that generate billions of dollars for everyone in college athletics except the athletes themselves. Bob Bowlsby, the commissioner of the Big 12, admitted as much to my colleague Juliet Macur the other day. He told her, as she put it in her Times column on Friday, that the conferences "had to make a pre-emptive move to try to save themselves." Precisely.

As it turns out, it didn't work. On Friday, in California, Judge Claudia Wilken, who presided over the so-called O'Bannon case in June, ruled that, by limiting the amount of scholarship money the players could get, the NCAA was in violation of the nation's antitrust laws. She ruled that not only should players get the full cost of attendance, but that trust funds should be set up for players that could contain

\$5,000 a year. That may not sound like much, but according to the plaintiffs' lawyers I spoke to, it could add up to some \$300 million.

In a recent article on the sports website Deadspin, the economist Andy Schwarz shrewdly noted that there are actually two very distinct schools of NCAA critics. He called them Team Reform and Team Market.

Team Reform, he wrote, consists of those who believe that college sports have gotten out of hand, and are not reflective of the values of higher education. They want to put the genie back in the bottle - and they are unlikely to be happy with the judge's decision.

Team Market, to which Schwarz (and I) belong, believes that there's nothing all that wrong with commercialized college sports - which has tens of millions of followers, after all - so long as the value, as he puts it, goes to the value creators, which most definitely include the players. Team Market is thrilled with the judge's decision.

The NCAA and the big-time college sports establishment are not terribly worried about Team Reform, which has generally been toothless and has no real way to effect its agenda. But they have long been terrified of Team Market, which has the potential to truly change the nature of college sports. The O'Bannon case is only the first lawsuit to go to trial; there are other antitrust lawsuits coming down the pike that could force even bigger changes.

I know there are those who complain that all these changes will allow the rich in college sports to becoming richer, at the expense of all the other schools in Division I. To which I say: so what. In fact, I think that could potentially be a good thing. If you separate off the 65 schools in the Big 5 conferences - plus a few others like Boise State in football and the University of Connecticut in basketball - and allow their athletic departments to become ever richer and more powerful, they will be more easily seen for what they are: a form of professionalized and commercialized entertainment that has very little to do with higher education. They are the ones that can afford to put money in trust for players - and that is what is likely to happen. They are not going to suddenly join Team Reform.

At the same time, the also-ran schools may be forced to rethink athletics entirely. Unable to pay their players, perhaps they'll decide that the better part of valor is to de-emphasize sports and make them truly collegiate activities rather than part of a multibillion dollar entertainment complex.

Ultimately the Big 5 conferences hoped the changes they were making would be the last in a process that would shut off further reform. As we learned on Friday, it is more likely to be just the beginning. □



## Phosphorus and Freedom



**PAUL KRUGMAN**  
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In the latest Times Magazine, Robert Draper profiled youngish libertarians - roughly speaking, people who combine free-market economics with permissive social views - and asked whether we might be heading for a "libertarian moment." Well, probably not. Polling suggests that young Americans tend, if anything, to be more supportive of the case for a bigger government than their elders. But I'd like to ask a different question: Is libertarian economics at all realistic?

The answer is no. And the reason can be summed up in one word: phosphorus.

As you've probably heard, the city of Toledo recently warned its residents not to drink the water. Why? Contamination from toxic algae blooms in Lake Erie, largely caused by the runoff of phosphorus from farms.

When I read about that, it rang a bell. Last week many Republican heavy hitters spoke at a conference sponsored by the blog Red State - and I remembered an antigovernment rant a few years back from Erick Erickson, the blog's founder. Erickson suggested that oppressive government regulation had reached the point where citizens might want to "march down to their state legislator's house, pull him outside, and beat him to a bloody pulp." And the source of his rage? A ban on phosphates in dishwasher detergent. After all, why would

government officials want to do such a thing?

An aside: The states bordering Lake Erie banned or sharply limited phosphates in detergent long ago, temporarily bringing the lake back from the brink. But farming has so far evaded effective controls, so the lake is dying again, and it will take more government intervention to save it.

The point is that before you rage against unwarranted government interference in your life, you might want to ask why the government is interfering. Often - not always, of course, but far more often than the free-market faithful would have you believe - there is, in fact, a good reason for the government to get involved. Pollution controls are the simplest example, but not unique.

Smart libertarians have always realized that there are problems free markets alone can't solve - but their alternatives to government tend to be implausible. For example, Milton Friedman famously called for the abolition of the Food and Drug Administration. But in that case, how would consumers know whether their food and drugs were safe? His answer was to rely on tort law. Corporations, he claimed, would have the incentive not to poison people because of the threat of lawsuits.

So, do you believe that would be enough? Really? And, of course, people who denounce big government also tend to call for tort reform and attack trial lawyers.

More commonly, self-proclaimed libertarians deal with the problem of market failure both by pretending that it doesn't happen and by imagining government as much worse than it really is. We're living in an Ayn Rand novel, they insist. (No, we aren't.) We have more than a hundred different welfare programs, they tell us, which are wasting vast sums on bu-

reaucracy rather than helping the poor. (No, we don't, and no, they aren't.)

I'm often struck, incidentally, by the way antigovernment clichés can trump everyday experience. Talk about the role of government, and you invariably have people saying things along the lines of, "Do want everything run like the DMV?" Experience varies - but my encounters with New Jersey's Motor Vehicle Commission have generally been fairly good (better than dealing with insurance or cable companies), and I'm sure many libertarians would, if they were honest, admit that their own DMV dealings weren't too bad. But they go for the legend, not the fact.

Libertarians also tend to engage in projection. They don't want to believe that there are problems whose solution requires government action, so they tend to assume that others similarly engage in motivated reasoning to serve their political agenda - that anyone who worries about, say, environmental issues is engaged in scare tactics to further a big-government agenda. Paul Ryan, the chairman of the House Budget Committee, doesn't just think we're living out the plot of "Atlas Shrugged"; he asserts that all the fuss over climate change is just "an excuse to grow government." As I said at the beginning, you shouldn't believe talk of a rising libertarian tide; despite America's growing social liberalism, real power on the right still rests with the traditional alliance between plutocrats and preachers. But libertarian visions of an unregulated economy do play a significant role in political debate, so it's important to understand that these visions are mirages. Of course some government interventions are unnecessary and unwise. But the idea that we have a vastly bigger and more intrusive government than we need is a foolish fantasy. □





Grilled skirt steak with garlic and herbs. With a deep, beefy taste and succulent texture, skirt steak makes a great go-to for a quick dinner on the grill. (Andrew Scrivani/The New York Times)

# Skirt Steak Works Great for Summer Grilling

**MELISSA CLARK**  
© 2014 New York Times

Skirt steak isn't winning any beauty pageants. It's a long, lanky, awkward contender for your grill. You won't be able to give it those pronounced crosshatched grill lines, and its flat shape gives you thin, squiggly slices rather than nice, wide planks. If you want pretty and iconic, splurge on a rib or strip steak.

But for a weeknight dinner when you want a deep, beefy taste and succulent texture, you can't get a better steak than skirt. It even trumps flank steak, my former go-to for throwing on the grill.

What flank and skirt steaks have in common are their brawny, mineral flavor and loose-knit flesh, which is ideal for absorbing marinade. While both are sliced from the underbelly of the cow, skirt steak has

the advantage of being richer and more marbled with fat; that means you use marinade for flavor only, rather than relying on it to tenderize the meat. (That's not the case with leaner flank steak.)

When I'm pressed for time, I'll often just unwrap my skirt steak, pat it down with salt and pepper and throw it onto the grill. It needs nothing more.

In this recipe, I rub down the meat with a classic basil-flecked herb paste, heavy on the garlic. If you have the time, you should marinate your meat the day before you plan to cook it. This gives it plenty of time to soak up the flavors. But you can also just slather on the herb paste as you're getting ready to cook.

A word about the grill: If you have one, use it. There's simply no better way to get a deep char

on the ample surface of a skirt steak. If you don't, you can cook the meat in batches in a menacingly hot cast-iron pan, as long as you open the windows and turn off the smoke alarm first. Or try it under the broiler, positioning the steak as close to the flames as possible without touching them.

Whatever your heat source, pull the steak off once the center hits rare to medium-rare. Don't veer into medium-well territory with this cut or you risk the steak turning chewy and tough.

Finally, slice the meat across the grainy muscle fibers at a 45-degree angle, rather than straight up and down. Not only will this give you attractive slices, it will also maximize tenderness.

If you want glamour, grill a big, pretty rib-eye. But in the categories of succu-

lence, taste and cost, skirt steak takes the crown, no contest.

## GRILLED GARLIC & HERB SKIRT STEAK

Time: 25 minutes, plus at least 30 minutes' marinating

Yield: 8 servings

1 cup basil leaves, more for garnish

3 scallions, white and green parts, thinly sliced, more for garnish

2 tablespoons lemon thyme leaves, more for garnish

2 fat garlic cloves, roughly chopped

2 tablespoons coarsely chopped pepperoncini (1 to 2 peppers), pickled jalapeño or other pickled peppers

2 1/2 teaspoons kosher salt

Finely grated zest of 1 lemon

Juice of half a lemon

1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil

2 1/2 pounds skirt steak

1. In a blender or food processor, combine basil, scallions, lemon thyme, garlic, pepperoncini, salt and lemon zest and juice. Pour olive oil over mixture; blend until it turns to paste.

2. Using paper towels, pat steak dry and place in a large bowl; slather paste mixture all over meat. Cover and refrigerate at least 30 minutes or overnight.

3. Light the grill. Use a paper towel to pat steak dry. (You can leave some paste, but for the best sear, meat should be dry when it hits the grill.) Grill over direct heat until char lines appear and meat is done to taste, 3 to 5 minutes per side. Let rest for 5 minutes. Slice against the grain and garnish with herbs and scallions. □